

**Somerset County
Economic Development Commission**

11916 Somerset Avenue, Suite 202

Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

www.somersetcountyedc.org

Daniel K. Thompson
Executive Director

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Telephone: 410.651.0500
Fax: 410.651.3836
Email: edc@somersetmd.us

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Mill Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 0397 - Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax - Exemptions – Data Centers

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Somerset County Economic Development Commission, I want to express our support for Senate Bill 0397 – Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax - Exemptions – Data Centers.

Proposed Senate Bill 0397 encourages data centers to locate in the State of Maryland. This will give Maryland the opportunity to compete in the market for data centers. The industry is both environmentally friendly and provides high paying jobs. Those two factors are very desirable for rural areas.

The average salary of data center employees is \$110,000, which is considerably higher than the average salaries earned in most counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Adding 10 or 20 of these jobs in our rural communities would have a significant impact on our median household income.

Data Center attraction has allowed Virginia to reduce property taxes while increasing services to citizens. Increased state and county tax revenues and additional jobs are realized from the businesses that follow data center locations.

Please take into consideration the significant opportunities Senate Bill 0397 would create for the State of Maryland, and rural areas. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable consideration of Senate Bill 0397. We look forward to working with the General Assembly and the Administration to support any proposed legislation that would greatly benefit entire State of Maryland and Somerset County.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Thompson
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

