



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Speaker of the House Adrienne A. Jones (Administration)

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
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RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 579 – *Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) writes in **support** of *House Bill 579: Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)*. We are a community of nearly 800 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland’s innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

The MTC regularly advocates for policies that will grow Maryland’s digital economy. This bill makes common sense provisions for critical infrastructure, such as generating stations that are necessary for the operation of the facilities that will result in this digital transformation.

As one example of the way in which the digital economy can transform Maryland, the MTC commissioned a third-party study of the planned data center campus sited at the old Eastalco smelting plant site in Buckeystown, Frederick County. The study found that the construction of this facility would support approximately 48,000 jobs directly and secondary in the county from 2023 through 2038, or about 3,000 jobs per year, \$3.1 billion in local labor income, and \$25.8 million in county tax revenues. Once fully operational, this facility will support an estimated 6,300 direct and indirect jobs in Frederick County annually, including 1,700 directly on the campus with \$65,000 average annual per-worker wages on the campus. Frederick County would receive \$41 million in tax revenues annually. We have attached a full copy of this report to our testimony.

This project is a once-in-a-generation chance to revitalize an abandoned industrial site into a modern, environmentally friendly digital campus that powers our regional economy. Additionally, there are similar opportunities for economic revitalization around the State, with similar impacts on jobs and tax revenues. By making the commonsense adjustment to the certificate of public convenience and necessity process achieved by this bill, Maryland is better positioning itself to be at the forefront of digital transformation.

We respectfully urge a **favorable** report.