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Chairman Wilson and Committee Members  
Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

February 20, 2024

**HB-579 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals - Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)**

**I ask for a favorable vote on HB-579**

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on HB-579.

My name is Dale Sheppard, and I am with W.E. Bowers, Inc. in Beltsville, Maryland. I have worked in the mechanical contracting industry for the last 42 years.

We at Bowers take pride in building projects that provide benefit to the communities of Maryland as well as good paying jobs.

Bowers is and has been engaged with construction, service and maintenance of HVAC and Plumbing systems on Data Center projects throughout the DC Metro area for many years. It has been our experience that properly located and developed Data Centers bring jobs and tax revenue to the respective locality. Bowers employs over one thousand trades persons and administrative personnel. Although we work on a variety of projects, a large percentage of that workforce is committed to Data Center related work.

I am writing to endorse this legislation in the context that it will enable Maryland to expand its ability to compete with other states and reap the benefits of Data Center construction and operations.

It appears to me that wording and definitions in previous legislation may have unintentionally prohibited the growth of Data centers in Maryland. I cite specifically the planned Quantum Loophole Data Center Campus in Frederick County. This bill would help distinguish important differences between private backup generators and public utility generating stations.

While there are always pros and cons to any kind of development, Data Centers are necessary to progress and the implementation on current and future technologies. I do believe that the Data Center industry is aware and conscious of environmental concerns. I believe that they are consistently working on new ideas and technologies to enhance everyday life for all stake holders and reduce their environmental impacts.

By passing HB-579 it would ensure that Maryland and its citizens will have it fair share of opportunity in this market. This is further emphasized by Governor Moore's actions to put forth and push this legislation through.

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Once again, I ask you for a favorable vote on HB-579.

Respectfully,

Dale Sheppard  
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