

I urge you to vote against House Bill 579. The current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process is working so, why fix it. When the Public Service Commission (PSC) reviewed the Aligned request for the data center on the old Alcoa site in Frederick County, they disagreed with the Aligned estimate of 168 - 3 megawatt generators producing 504 megawatts of power. The aligned request was denied by the PSC.

Quantum Loophole, the site developer has now raised that number at buildout to be 1000 diesel generators creating up to 3000 megawatts of power. If we did not have the PSC to protect us, we would have just gone along with the faulty estimate that was one sixth of the current estimate. The PSC is protecting the citizens of Maryland. We need their expertise to protect us from being taken advantage of.

I also urge you to create a state-level working group to take a comprehensive look at data centers - to include, land use, water and power use, environmental issues and a thorough cost-benefit analysis that includes all primary and secondary costs.