



**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Testimony on:** SB0861 - High-Energy-Use Facilities - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Dave Arndt, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** March 7, 2024

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0861. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB0861.

Data centers are the foundation of the internet and our modern IT infrastructure. In light of future growth in data centers, including “hyperscale” data centers to support new technologies like AI and cryptocurrency operations, Maryland faces significant challenges in managing this new industry while pursuing its goals towards reducing climate emissions, greening the electric grid, and protecting public health. In the same manner, cultivating cannabis is also a very energy-intensive use operation that presents issues that complicate and perhaps prevent us from achieving our Green House Gas (GHG) emission goals.

Maryland simply cannot meet its GHG reduction goals when facing the growth of facilities that can use as much power as the City of Baltimore. It only makes sense that these facilities become partners with the State of Maryland to achieve our goals together. The way to structure this partnership is to establish limits on GHG emissions for these facilities. This way, these high GHG emitting facilities are paying their fair share. Maryland residents should not subsidize these energy-intensive industries while making our own offsetting investments in clean energy. In addition, these industries cannot undermine or set back Maryland’s efforts to transition from dirty to clean sources of electricity and electrify the transportation and building sectors.

SB0861 represents a common-sense approach to managing data centers, cryptocurrency processing operations, and cannabis cultivation facilities by imposing yearly GHG emission goals that can readily be achieved with current technologies. which put the onus of climate pollution on the organization responsible for GHG emissions.

For all of these reasons, we strongly support HB0905 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project  
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
WISE