



March 6, 2024

**Committee: Energy, Education, and Environment**

**Testimony on: SB 861, High-Energy-Use Facilities, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions**

**Organization: Mobilize Frederick**

**Submitting: Barb Trader, President, Board of Directors**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 7, 2024**

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 861, Public Utilities – High-Energy-Use Facilities – Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions. Mobilize Frederick urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on SB 681.

Mobilize Frederick is a non-profit organization of Frederick City and County residents formed to assist with implementation of 40 climate action recommendations contained in a 2021 *Climate Response and Resilience Report* prepared for the City and County.

Demand for data centers is on the rise and Maryland policymakers are actively encouraging growth of this sector through tax incentives and proposed relaxation of permitting requirements.

Data centers use hundreds of megawatts of energy. An approved data center site in Frederick County is projected to use between 230 – 250 megawatts of power when it is fully built out. Furthermore, data centers require a large number of backup diesel generators to power the facility in the event the power supply from the grid is interrupted. If the energy used to power the data center is generated from carbon-intensive energy sources, or the backup diesel generators are called into operation, greenhouse gas emissions could increase.

To the maximum extent feasible, these energy intensive data centers should be powered by clean renewable energy sources to ensure that Maryland achieves its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. By mandating greenhouse gas emission reductions from data centers and other high energy use facilities to achieve a 100 percent reduction from baseline emissions by 2040 and establishing reporting requirements to track compliance, SB 861 will incentivize the use of clean renewable energy sources and keep Maryland on the path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

For these reasons, Mobilize Frederick urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on SB 861.

Barb Trader  
President, Board of Directors  
Mobilize Frederick