

Testimony in Support of HB0270/SB0116
Data Center Study
Original Committee- Economic 01 23 25
Submitted on 21th of January 2025, approximately 5:00 pm.

To the Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Holcomb. I live in Chestertown, Maryland, on Fairlee Creek, and I urge a favorable report on **HB0270**. Thank you in advance for your consideration of support. The attachment from the 6th Annual for Climate and Environment is included with references to information that relate to the Data Center Study bill.

The findings of the proposed Data Study bill are a critical start in crafting legislation that promotes collaboration between the state and private utility monopolies resulting in more affordable clean air projects that decrease the ratepayer's burden of funding the for-profit utilities infrastructure costs. The lack of State oversight and legislation in this space is the reason why the Data Center Study is under discussion in both the Senate and the House.

The Data Center Study bill, in addition to the GRID Enhancements bill by Senator Lewis-Young,, Delegate Charkoudian's Affordable Clean Energy bill and Delegate Qi's Affordable Grid Reliability Distribution (GRID ACT) are Data Center Reform bills to watch and support.

Slides 33-36 Senators Lewis- Young's Data Studies and Grid Enhancement bills

Slides 52-53 Delegate Qi's Affordable Grid Reliability and Improved Distribution (GRID)ACT

Slides 64-66 Delegate's Chalkoudin's Abundant Affordable Clean Energy bill

The purposes of the above bills is not about opposition to to the existence of Data Centers but a recognition that legislation is needed around data studies, comprehensive planning, collaboration between state oversight and private utility monopolies, accountability inclusion of more clean energy projects and affordability in addition to the infrastructure costs that currently are being passed on to Maryland ratepayers. These passage of the above four (4) bills are good for all Marylanders, but most importantly, will benefit the underserved communities on both sides of the Bay.

The Data Study bill is a result of the State not currently collecting needed data to better understand how to better legislate the State's oversight role to achieve the above legislative objectives. The information found in slides 76-77 "Where are Maryland Data Centers", currently is not being collected by the State, but by another independent party. The information detailed in the slides comes from the Department of Commerce (DOC), Maryland Department of Energy (MDE), review of local permits and press releases. The DOC provides a little bit of data from the four Maryland Data Centers that receive sales and tax exemptions. The MDE information relating to diesel permits is not aggregated by industry.