



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

February 28, 2025

Chair Brian Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair C.T. Wilson
House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairs Feldman and Wilson and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and House Economic Matters Committee,

As the Frederick County Executive, I am writing to share my perspective on House Bill 1035 and Senate Bill 937 - Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning - Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act).

I am a strong supporter of increasing the State's reliable and affordable energy production and capacity. HB 1035/SB 937 aims to invest in a plan to increase the state's renewable energy in a reliable and affordable way.

Importantly, this legislation also acknowledges the need to ensure that high energy users, such as data centers, are paying their fair share in energy costs and assisting with the overall grid load. Frederick County is the site of a brownfield currently under development to be a data center campus, often referred to as the Quantum Loophole campus. While we are proud to host a growing industry in Frederick County, we must balance the benefits of this industry with its impact on our environment, infrastructure, and quality of life.

Early in my term as the County Executive, I created a Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup with the charge to examine existing laws and to provide thoughtful guidance on shaping the growth of a relatively new and rapidly changing industry poised for expansion in Frederick County. This workgroup, which was comprised of community members, industry representatives, organized labor, environmental organizations, business leaders, a representative from the Farm Bureau, and local elected officials, has provided several policy recommendations that are being addressed through our local legislative process. However, there were several matters, such as energy consumption, climate impacts, and transmission infrastructure that should be further addressed in partnership with state agencies and the Maryland General Assembly. HB 1035/SB 937 responds to some of the recommendations from the workgroup, particularly ensuring that data centers do not disproportionately impact our local electricity supply or result in significant ratepayer impacts.

While this legislation addresses some concerns regarding the state's energy capacity, it also undermines local land use authority by allowing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process to circumvent local land use input. Addressing our energy needs must not be done without regard to local land use planning and decision making.

I thank you for your consideration of HB1035/SB 937 and urge you to consider all voices when deliberating on this impactful legislation.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD