



PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Terriea "T" Smalls, Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer

UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

Before the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

In Opposition to HB 270 / SB 116 – Data Center Study Bill

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

I am Terriea "T" Smalls, Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, representing over 1,900 dedicated members and 400 apprentices. I am here today to express our strong opposition to HB 270 / SB 116, which seeks to mandate an extensive study on data center development in Maryland. While we acknowledge the intent of the bill, we believe it undermines economic opportunities and threatens job security for our highly skilled union workforce.

Data centers are a critical component of Maryland's infrastructure and economic growth, providing well-paying jobs for tradespeople like our members. The construction and ongoing maintenance of these facilities create long-term employment opportunities, supporting families and strengthening local economies. HB 270 / SB 116, however, introduces unnecessary bureaucracy and regulatory uncertainty, which could delay or deter future projects and investment in our state. Of particular concern is the envisioned hyperscale data center at Calvert Cliffs, which you currently oppose, and which this legislation certainly hampers.

Our union members possess the expertise to install and maintain complex mechanical systems that meet the highest industry standards for safety and environmental compliance. The regulatory processes already in place ensure that data centers operate within established environmental and energy guidelines. Additional studies and oversight, as proposed in this legislation, would only serve to duplicate existing efforts, leading to project delays and potential job losses.

Moreover, the economic benefits of data centers extend beyond direct employment. These projects stimulate local supply chains, generate significant tax revenue, and contribute to Maryland's goal of becoming a leader in technology and innovation. HB 270 / SB 116 could hinder this progress by introducing new layers of compliance that could discourage future investment.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to oppose HB 270 / SB 116. Our members stand ready to support responsible development that balances economic growth with environmental stewardship. We believe that Maryland can continue to attract and sustain data center investments without imposing additional burdens that threaten jobs and progress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

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