



SB116

Data Center Impact Analysis and Report Act

Testimony before the Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing February 13, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB116**. We appreciate the leadership of Senator Lewis-Young for sponsoring this important legislation.

The power, water, and land use requirements of hyperscale datacenters will result in a monumental transformation of any locality in which they are built and the effects will reverberate throughout the state.

For example, a typical data center has power requirements on the order of 1200 megawatt, an enormous amount of electrical power. Further, they will require emergency diesel generators to provide power equal to the power it gets from the electrical grid - 400 diesel generators that are tested monthly. One hyperscale data center will add about 8 million new MTCO_{2e} of GHG emissions annually. Regarding water and land use, the Quantum Frederick data center site will receive 1.5 million gallons/day of potable water to supply only a small portion of the site's buildout. A hyperscale data center could require one or two 500 kV transmission lines that could grossly affect land use.

The Datacenter Study Bill will provide accurate and unbiased information that legislators need to determine how to blend hyperscale data centers into our economy. This bill directs the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State and to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1, 2026.

Maryland needs to learn from Virginia's experiences – both in how to maximize benefits and how to protect ratepayers and communities in MD from the many possible negative effects.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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