



SB0116: Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

Position: Support

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Shore Progress supports SB 116 - Data Center Impact Analysis and Report. SB 116 calls for a comprehensive, independent analysis of the data center industry's true costs and benefits to Marylanders. While these developments promise economic growth, the unchecked expansion of data centers particularly in rural areas - threatens to strain our already strained energy grid, burden taxpayers, and deplete our natural resources.

Infrastructure costs frequently fall on working families. The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project exemplifies how large-scale developments are imposed on communities with little public input. Rural residents, farmers, and environmental advocates are left to fight against decisions made without fully understanding the long-term impacts.

The Moore administration has established a data center stakeholder group to discuss these pressing concerns. However, without legislative oversight, the public risks being left out of critical decisions that will shape our economy and environment for decades. Marylanders deserve economic policies that put people first. SB 116 ensures that any promised economic benefits are independently verified and that working families aren't left footing the bill for unchecked corporate expansion. Thoughtful planning and community-driven policies must be at the core of Maryland's approach to data centers.

A favorable report on SB 116 is a vote for transparency, accountability, and the long-term well-being of Marylanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shore Progress