

Testimony supporting SB 116

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

January 21, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

My husband and I have lived on the same rural property now in District 6 for almost 50 years. Our beautiful rural county has changed a lot in those years – now Frederick County is considered the fastest growing county in Maryland! Not only has this put a tremendous amount of pressure to keep up with the residential infrastructure, it has incentivized commercial uses to increase the tax base: thus the attraction of bringing data centers into Frederick County and Maryland! But data centers are NOT the treasure at the end of the rainbow!

We do not know what the negative or positive impacts bringing data centers will create. We can learn from experiences in Loudoun County, VA., and other active data centers, and be proactive with our guidelines and policies BEFORE the data centers are approved.

Having clear knowledge of these data center operations and specifically how they will impact the county's and state's initiatives must be calculated as part of the approval process. These initiatives include preservation goals and our clean energy targets.

Thank you for your support of this initiative. "An ounce of prevention (planning) is worth a pound of cure."

John and Susan Hanson