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SB 116 - Data Center Impact Analysis and Report
Position: SUPPORT
Date: February 13, 2025
Contact: Anna Mudd, Potomac Conservancy

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Potomac Conservancy requests a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 116, Data Center Analysis and Report. The Data Center Impact Analysis and Report 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 to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1, 2026.

The power, water and land use requirements of hyperscale data centers will result in a monumental transformation of any locality in which they are built and the effects will reverberate throughout the state. Maryland needs to learn from Virginia's experiences – both in how to maximize benefits and how to protect ratepayers, communities, and the environment in Maryland from the many possible negative effects. **For these reasons, we request a FAVORABLE report on SB 116.**

Sincerely,

Anna Mudd
Senior Policy Director
Potomac Conservancy