



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 116 - Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

DATE: February 13, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 116 - Data Center Impact Analysis and Report** a favorable report.

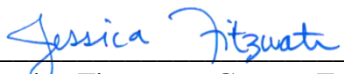
As you may know, Frederick County is the site of a brownfield currently under development to be a data center campus, often referred to as the Quantum Loophole campus. In anticipation of this development, the Frederick County Council established a local critical digital infrastructure (CDI) ordinance in 2022. As County Executive, I created a Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup in 2023, with the charge to examine existing laws and to provide thoughtful guidance on shaping the growth of a relatively new and rapidly changing technology industry poised for expansion in Frederick County.

This workgroup, which was comprised of community members, industry representatives, organized labor, environmental organizations, business leaders, a representative from the Farm Bureau, and local elected officials, has provided several policy recommendations that are being addressed through our legislative process. However, there were several matters, such as energy consumption and climate impacts, transmission infrastructure, water consumption, and sustainability practices, that should be further studied in partnership with state agencies and academic/research institutions.

Additionally, there are several policy areas where state agencies delegate authority to local government but may need to provide more guidance regarding this new and evolving industry. Because the data center industry is often resource intensive and is relatively new to the State of Maryland, a collaborative and comprehensive study of the impacts of this industry would be beneficial to inform our regulatory framework both at the state and local levels.

As the County Executive of a county at the forefront of this development industry, I stand ready to work in partnership with the Maryland General Assembly and our Maryland state agencies to ensure our community can harness the benefits of the data center industry while protecting the environment and our quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 116 and I urge a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD