



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 903

Data Centers – Fast Track Pass for Co-Location and Sales and Use Tax

Date: March 6, 2025	Position: UNFAVORABLE
To: Senate Energy, Education, & Environment Committee Senate Budget & Taxation Committee	From: Gussie Maguire MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 903, which creates a “fast track” procedure for power generating stations co-located with data centers. The Public Service Commission would be required to expedite their issuance of a Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience for eligible projects.

Energy generating facilities and data centers both have significant impacts on the environments in which they are sited. From water consumption, to air emissions, to wastewater and stormwater discharges, there are many complex issues that require thoughtful consideration at the permitting stage. These facilities, when poorly sited, disrupt habitat, contribute to ground and surface water pollution, and impact public health. As Maryland continues to explore the data center industry, it must move deliberately to ensure that these harmful impacts are mitigated to the greatest extent possible—something very difficult to do on a condensed timeline.

At a time when we can foreseeably expect The Public Service Commission to have an increased number of data center and co-located energy applications to consider, that body must be encouraged to thoroughly understand the potential consequences of these projects, not rushed into approving what may ultimately prove to be regrettable projects.

CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on SB 903.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.