



Testimony of Thomas Bello, Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW)

Before the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Energy and
Environment Committee

In Opposition to HB 270 / SB 116 – Data Center Study Bill

Dear Chairs Wilson and Feldman, and honorary members of the House Economic
Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

I am Thomas Bello, Executive Vice President of the Mechanical Contractors Association
of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW). I am here today to express our strong
opposition to HB 270 / SB 116.

Our organization represents 200 construction contractors, employing some 10,000
workers and 1,000 apprentices across the DMV region. This includes local unions,
hiring halls, and apprenticeship training centers of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades
Association throughout Maryland, as well as our affiliates within the Building Trades who
operate additional hiring halls and training programs in the state. Together, our
economic footprint generates approximately \$2 billion in annual revenue and contributes
\$500 million in state, federal, and local taxes every year.

While we recognize the intent of this bill to study the environmental, energy, and
economic impacts of data center development, we firmly believe that it introduces
unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that threaten critical economic opportunities and job
creation. Maryland is currently poised to host a transformative project with the
envisioned hyperscale data center at Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant. This project
represents some \$7 billion in state and local investment and promises to create
thousands of union jobs, including opportunities for skilled tradespeople in our industry.

The proposed legislation introduces uncertainty and potential delays to this significant
development, which could jeopardize the economic potential and long-term viability of
the project. Our members possess the specialized expertise to build and maintain the
sophisticated mechanical systems required by such large-scale facilities. Further
regulatory reviews and studies, as proposed in this bill, would only duplicate existing
oversight mechanisms and delay much-needed employment opportunities for our highly
skilled workforce.



Additionally, the hyperscale data center at Calvert Cliffs would provide substantial benefits to Maryland's economy, including boosting local businesses, generating sustainable revenue streams for state and local governments, and positioning Maryland as a national leader in clean energy and technology infrastructure. The passage of HB 270 / SB 116 risks sending a message that Maryland is a difficult place to do business, potentially driving this and other investments to neighboring states.

We urge the committee to consider the long-term economic and employment implications of this legislation and to oppose HB 270 / SB 116. Our members and contractors are ready and committed to ensuring the responsible and efficient development of data centers in Maryland that will benefit both workers and communities alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas L. Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington