



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**Testimony:** [SB0427](#) - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers  
**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2026  
**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Lewis Young  
**Committee:** Budget and Taxation  
**Submitting:** Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action  
**Position:** Favorable

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future.

We urge you to vote favorably on **SB0427 - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers**, which would allow local jurisdictions to set up a special tax rate for the personal property of data centers. This is important because local governments and residents will bear many of the costs associated with data centers.

As Maryland families continue to be burdened by ever increasing utility rates, HoCo Climate Action supports legislation that protects ratepayers from projected build out of hyperscale data centers. Maryland faces significant challenges in managing this new industry as costs are borne by residents while pursuing its goals towards reducing climate emissions, greening the electric grid, and protecting public health.

Data centers are exacerbating our affordability crisis by driving up electrical rates. However, if a local jurisdiction decides to allow data centers at a specific location, they should be allowed to offset this impact on residents by setting up a special tax rate for the personal property of data centers. This does not force a governing body to do this; it just allows them an option in how they implement data center governance.

We support **SB0427** and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Howard County Climate Action  
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee  
[www.HoCoClimateAction.org](http://www.HoCoClimateAction.org)  
[HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com](mailto:HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com)