



SB 0427 - SUPPORT

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SB 0427 - FAVORABLE

**Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and
Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers**

Budget and Taxation
February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone and members of the Committee:

The Climate Communications Coalition is a Maryland-based grassroots climate and environmental justice non-profit, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and of the Maryland Climate Justice Wing, among others. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly supports SB 0427.

Data Centers have a disproportionate impact on Counties' infrastructure, communities, and natural resources in addition to derailing Maryland's much-needed clean energy transition.

The health of our communities will be harmed by diesel fumes - a class one carcinogen according to the World Health Organization - from the backup generators that will run most of the time until the grid is up to par.

In addition, we have already witnessed outsized state-wide electricity costs, which have been unaffordable for many this winter. These are only expected to rise because of the data centers' infrastructure and power needs.

Data centers also deplete vital natural resources including water, clean air (due to the pollution from diesel generators and construction) and biodiversity with noise and light pollution.

This bill will provide the Mayor, the City Council of Baltimore, and the governing body of any Maryland County with the option to offset some of these negative impacts by funding local needs and supporting local communities.

The Climate Communications Coalition respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 0427.

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