



Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0427 “Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers “

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges SB0427 receive a favorable report.

A data center has an outsized impact on the County in which it is located. Data centers require enormous amounts of power and water and require utilities to build costly new infrastructure. Passing these costs on to residents is unreasonable. Allowing counties to establish a business personal property tax specifically for data centers is appropriate.

Counties can use the revenue from the tax to offset infrastructure and utility costs. Also, tax incentives used to attract data centers often leave communities with less revenue than expected due to high costs and limited job creation. A state law that allows a business personal property tax for data centers mitigates the ability of one county to push data centers to another county.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on SB0427.

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