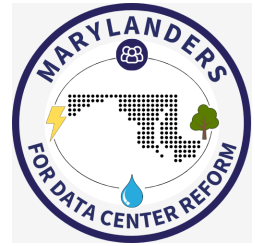


SB0427- FAVORABLE

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SB0427- Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers

Budget and Taxation Committee
February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation,

On behalf of Marylanders for Data Center Reform, I urge a favorable report on SB0427, Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers.

Marylanders for Data Center Reform, created by Nature Forward, represents over 40 Maryland social and environmental organizations, who are deeply concerned about the impacts of hyperscale data center development on ratepayers, water and air quality, and land use decisions. We strongly support SB0427, which allows counties to establish a subclass and set a special personal property tax rate for data centers.

Communities are struggling to keep up with increased costs of living. From rising energy bills to federal budget cuts, and job loss – people are struggling. Simultaneously the state and local governments are facing budget deficits. Marylanders deserve more. We need better planning for data centers and with this bill, local governments have the opportunity to address their budget challenges and bring real dollars back to communities. The data center industry is one of the most resource intensive industries of our lifetimes. A 2024 study on the local impacts of data centers from Cornell University found that public health costs are felt more in disadvantaged communities, where the per-household health burden could be up to 200x more in less-impacted communities¹. Who is paying for that? Families pay those costs, but data centers should pay too.

SB0427 protects taxpayers, ratepayers, and provides long-term investments that address local needs. We strongly support counties to have the option to assess personal property taxes on data centers to offset impacts of data center development and fund local needs. We urge a favorable report for this bill.

Respectfully,

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Nature Forward

¹ <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2412.06288>