

SB0992_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0992 – FAVORABLE

Public Utilities - Large Load Customers - Registration and Demand Response Program

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0992, Public Utilities - Large Load Customers - Registration and Demand Response Program

The Frederick NewsPost reported on March 6, 2026, *As data centers multiply, Maryland's power grid struggles to keep up*¹

Maryland ranks 13th in the U.S. for its residential electricity prices as of October 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Between October 2024 and October 2025, average residential electricity prices in the state rose about 18%.

That could just be the start. A 2024 U.S. Department of Energy report estimated data centers will consume about 7% to 12% of the country's electricity by 2028, up from 4.4% in 2023. Data centers' proportion of the regional electricity grid supplying power to Maryland and other nearby states will triple between 2024 and 2029, according to a report by the grid operator. As a result, the regional electricity grid estimated in another report that its peak energy load is estimated to grow 32 gigawatts from 2024 to 2030 — enough energy to power at least an estimated 24 million homes.

A sudden surge in power demand, supply issues and a long, bureaucratic approval process for bringing on new power has led to higher electricity prices in Maryland — costs only expected to increase.

This bill will require a certain large load customer to register with the Public Service Commission before interconnecting with the electric system; establish the requirements for the registration of a large load customer; require that a certain data center be eligible for and considered a "qualified data center" for a certain tax exemption under certain circumstances; require the Commission to take certain curtailment actions; and require the Commission to establish a Demand Response Program for large load customers.

Maryland needs stronger controls over the effects of data centers on electricity infrastructure.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0992.

¹ https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/continuing_coverage/data_centers/as-data-centers-multiply-marylands-power-grid-struggles-to-keep-up/article_d54ecff4-b259-5535-97a2-bef190ca196f.html