



TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR

—
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LOBBYIST

—
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SB596 - LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS - ELECTRIC SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION AND DEMAND
RESPONSE PROGRAM**

FAVORABLE

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 6TH, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the EEE Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, **I urge a favorable report on SB596 with amendments.**

New data centers connecting to the PJM grid are increasing energy prices for Marylanders. PJM's capacity auction price has increased by over 900% in recent years, a cost increase that is passed on to every ratepayer in the PJM region.

However, data centers only cause the capacity auction price to increase if they are pulling from the grid during peak hours. SB596 would reward data centers who mitigate their use of grid energy during peak demand hours with expedited access to the grid. Under this policy, data centers would get access to power sooner if they are good grid citizens and shave some or all of their energy use during peak hours.

This reduction during peak hours will prevent the need to build new transmission lines, power plants, and substations. At no cost to ratepayers, this policy will incentivize good behavior from data centers that will lower our bills.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report.