



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

**Senate Bill SB0596 Large Load Customers - Electric System Interconnection
and Demand Response Program**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee – February 26th, 2026
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of **SB0596**. Data centers and other large load customers have led to an unprecedented increase in actual and projected electricity load. This increased load is leading to an increase in electricity rates which impacts the wallet of every family in Maryland.

While data centers serve the needs of modern society, the current pace and scale of unchecked data center development is placing an unprecedented strain on the state's energy grid. This bill incentivizes data centers to use battery storage and carbon-free energy sources to interconnect to the grid. If data centers bring their own power, it should include carbon-free generation. This bill encourages data centers to provide at least 25% of their capacity load through carbon-free means or through demand response. Demand response programs are readily available, can help lower greenhouse gas emissions, and add new, clean capacity to the grid.

We strongly support SB0596, because this bill helps protect the financial and personal health of Marylanders and helps address the challenges of increased load through demand response—while also encouraging the addition of clean, new capacity to the grid.

We ask for your support for SB0596 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler
WDC Subcommittee on
Environment and Energy

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair