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Testimony in Support of **HB1411**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Derek Soderstrom

Dear Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

My name is Derek Soderstrom, and I am a resident of Hampstead, Maryland. I am writing to express my Support for HB1411 Data Centers – Planning and Transparency Act, which aims to bring more transparency on energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions and overall project processes.

With the rapid development of data centers across the United States, it has become more apparent the negative impacts these facilities have on communities. The amount of noise and air pollution caused by backup diesel generators and HVAC equipment has a tremendous impact on the health and quality of life for community residents. New studies show that cancer rates have risen in areas where data centers exist.

Outside of health impacts, the strain these facilities put on local utilities such as power and water is burdensome. Maryland needs to be mindful that these facilities are built in areas that can support them. Power generation should be the responsibility of the developer and should not require new transmission projects which disrupt communities and raise costs for rate payers.

Data center development should be limited to certain industrial zoning areas as determined by the local jurisdiction. Studies have shown that property values of homes in communities near/next to large scale data centers have been severely impacted. People do not want to live near these facilities due to noise, health and resource concerns. In some cases, homes have not been able to sell.

HB1411 aims to mitigate some of these concerns. I respectfully urge you to support HB1411 - Data Centers - Planning and Transparency Act and to advocate for its passage to establish transparency on data center resource usage as well as zoning regulations that make sense.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at derek.soderstrom@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Derek Soderstrom