

I'm writing to support the Data Center Clean Capacity Bill (HB940) which addresses energy affordability and threats to increased clean energy use by:

- **Establishing a voluntary demand response program:** Data centers operators will be able to opt in to a program where they reduce the amount of power they pull from the grid at peak hours through battery storage, shifting workload to other facilities, and carbon-free energy generation.
- **Requiring that new data centers get at least 25% of their energy from carbon-free sources or demand response.** The demand response program is voluntary, as noted above. But this provision requires data centers to source carbon free electricity if they opt out of demand response.
- **Prioritizing data centers that bring their own clean energy:** Data centers that provide 100% of their own energy through carbon-free energy sources, battery storage, and demand response will be fast-tracked for interconnection and permitting.
- **Requiring data centers to pay into a community benefit fund:** Data centers must pay \$1,000 per MW into the EmPOWER program, which assists low-income Marylanders.

I recommend a favorable vote on HB940.

Thank you,

Tim Lake

Rockville, Maryland