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Testimony in Support of **HB1534**

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 HB1534 Data Centers – Standards for Operation and Siting, which aims to establish new regulations for noise/vibration levels and backup power generation. It also seeks to prevent data center development on certain agricultural lands.

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 without passing additional infrastructure costs onto tax and rate payers.

On top of all the harmful pollution and impact to utilities, the rapid development of data centers has decimated many rural communities. Thousands of acres of prime farmland have been developed (or sighted to be developed) into data centers. This is the very same land that feeds us! These agricultural lands need to be protected as our future depends on it.

HB1534 aims to mitigate some of these concerns. I respectfully urge you to support HB1534 - Data Centers - Standards for Operation and Siting and to advocate for its passage to establish additional requirements and most importantly preserve agricultural land.

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](mailto:derek.soderstrom@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Derek Soderstrom