

Testimony on House Bill – FAVORABLE

HB 1411 – Data Center Planning and Transparency Act

Environment and Transportation Committee

March 6, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mona Guilfoil and I live in Carroll county, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1411, the Data Center Planning and Transparency Act. When I was researching data center development trends recently I found many stories featuring communities across the nation that are fighting data center development and in some cases seeking moratoriums on approvals of data center development projects. For example, here in Maryland, four counties---Prince George's, Baltimore, Frederick, and Montgomery---have in place or are considering pausing data center development. **WHY?** People are angry and feel blindsided when they are often the last ones to hear that a data center has been approved for their neighborhood! Community concerns over water and land use, noise and air pollution, and impacts on electricity rates have not been addressed in data center projects. Furthermore, local jurisdictions find they are struggling to craft zoning and building codes that protect communities and satisfy constituents while feeling the pressure to compete for datacenter revenue. Data center developers are shopping around for the sweetest deal, pitting local governments and communities against each other. What is needed here in Maryland is state-level guidance on data center planning, with an emphasis on transparency.

The **Data Center Planning and Transparency Act** increases transparency and community input by;

Requiring data center operators to submit disclosure reports: Large-scale data center operators will be required to submit detailed reports to the Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of the Environment, and relevant local authorities that will be made publicly available online.

Requiring local governments to transparently plan for data center approval and development: Local governments will be required to design transparent approval processes for data center projects that include public notice and public input meetings.

Restricting financial incentives for data center projects: Make it more difficult for local government officials to financially incentivize data center projects.

I respectfully urge you to submit a favorable report for HB1411. Thank you.

