



**TESTIMONY OF  
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON**

BEFORE THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 120 – UNFAVORABLE

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW) respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to House Bill 120 and its proposed categorical prohibition on the construction of new data centers in the State of Maryland. MCAMW writes from the perspective of Maryland’s mechanical and specialty construction contractors, for whom this legislation directly affects project pipelines, workforce stability, and long-term capital and training investments.

MCAMW proudly represents 200 construction contractors, approximately 10,500 skilled workers, and 1,500 apprentices. Our member companies contribute significantly to the region’s economy, generating nearly \$2 billion in annual revenue and approximately \$500 million in state, federal, and local taxes each year. These figures reflect real payrolls, supplier purchases, equipment investments, and apprenticeship programs that are directly tied to the availability of large, technically complex projects.

From a contractor’s standpoint, House Bill 120 replaces predictable, standards-based project evaluation with a categorical ban that removes entire categories of work before site-specific facts can be considered. Contractors make multi-year investments in workforce training, safety compliance, fabrication capacity, and specialized equipment based on anticipated demand. Eliminating an entire class of development by statute risks reducing apprenticeship intake, shrinking bidding activity, and pushing both firms and skilled labor to neighboring jurisdictions where structured review processes remain in place.

Modern data centers are among the most technically demanding facilities in the built environment, requiring advanced mechanical, electrical, and cooling infrastructure as well as long-term maintenance services. These projects provide sustained employment for licensed technicians and skilled trades, not short-term spikes of work.



Maryland already maintains zoning, environmental-review, and utility-permitting frameworks capable of addressing legitimate concerns through conditional approvals and enforceable compliance standards. A statewide prohibition removes that balance and substitutes rigidity for professional oversight.

For Maryland contractors and the thousands of workers they employ, the central issue is whether the State will continue to provide a predictable, standards-based environment in which long-term workforce and capital investments can responsibly occur. MCAMW respectfully urges the Committee to consider the economic and workforce consequences associated with a categorical moratorium on this class of industrial development and to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 120.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas L. Bello  
Executive Vice President