

HB1534_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/10/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#1534- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Data Centers - Standards for Operation and Siting

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee **FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1534, **Data Centers - Standards for Operation and Siting**

As the Data Center industry attempts to expand within Maryland the environmental effects of that expansion need to be fully understood, and mitigations of harms implemented for the data centers. The strongly opposed County Council decision on expansion of the data center overlay zone in Frederick County that would rezone agricultural lands to industrial that are currently designated Priority Preservation and in the Rural Legacy Area should not be permitted to occur.

This bill will require an owner or operator of a data center to comply with certain standards under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of the Environment to establish by regulation certain sound and vibration controls and requirements for backup power generation for data centers; prohibiting a local approving authority from authorizing the construction of a data center on certain agricultural land; and requiring a certain applicant to submit a certain report to a local approving authority under certain circumstances.

Responsible expansion of data centers can only occur when environmental harms are implemented and should not remove agricultural preservation areas from that zoning classification to facilitate data center construction.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1534.