

**To:** The House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Elyse Wilson, Adamstown Resident

**Subject:** FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – HB 1534

## **Introduction**

My name is Elyse Wilson, and I live in Adamstown, Maryland, a community currently being transformed into an industrial data center zone. I am testifying in support of HB 1534 because it finally brings regulation to an industry that has operated without oversight. However, I am here to state clearly: **there is no such thing as "green" diesel.** Our community does not want "cleaner" engines; we want zero diesel generators in favor of 100% alternative clean power, such as battery backup.

## **The Failure of the Diesel Narrative**

In the 2,600-acre CDI Overlay expansion alone, Frederick County is facing a future of over 2,000 industrial diesel generators.

- Companies like Rowan claim "sustainability" while planning to install thousands of engines that emit nitrogen oxides and particulates 500 feet from my home and my neighbors' private wells.
- Even the highest 'Tier 4' emission standards are insufficient when applied at this industrial scale. The cumulative impact on our air quality and the 572 students at the 1965-era Carroll Manor Elementary School is simply unacceptable. We are facing a landscape of 17 planned data centers, with some homes as close as 500 feet and a new facility sited only 900 feet from the school gates. Each of these centers houses hundreds of diesel generators—each the size of a 26-foot moving truck with the power of a locomotive engine—stationed directly adjacent to large residential communities. Upon completion of the CDI Overlay, our community will be burdened by approximately 2,000 of these diesel generators, creating an industrial environment that no school or neighborhood should be forced to endure.
- I strongly support **Section 19-102(B)(1)(vi)** of this bill, which mandates on-site battery energy storage. This should not just be a requirement for large centers—it should be the mandatory replacement for all diesel backup in Maryland.

## **Immediate Protections for Our Children**

Until a total transition to batteries is achieved, our schools require the emergency protections outlined in this bill:

- **Mandatory HEPA/MERV 13+ Filtration:** Carroll Manor Elementary currently has zero protections against industrial emissions. HB 1534 correctly requires data center owners to fund and maintain high-efficiency filtration systems for schools within 2,500 feet.

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** We need the public-facing air quality sensor networks mandated by this bill to monitor the toxins our children are being exposed to.
- **Stop -Work Authority:** I support the provision allowing the Health Department to issue emergency stop -work orders if air pollutants increase by 20% or more during testing.

## Conclusion

We are being sold a "green" vision by executives in Denver, Colorado, who will never have to breathe the air in South Frederick County. If Maryland wants to lead in data, it must lead in clean energy, not fossil fuel dependency. We must hit the **pause** button on all diesel-reliant expansion until the state completes its 2026 Cost -Benefit Analysis and shifts the industry to 100% battery backup.

I urge a **FAVORABLE** report with a focus on strengthening the mandate for battery storage.

Respectfully,

**Elyse Wilson** Adamstown, MD