

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1411 – Data Center Planning and Transparency Act

Environment and Transportation Committee

March 6, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1411.

In terms of energy use, data centers can impact energy prices for the entire state (and region). PJM's last capacity market prices were only kept under control due to the cap enacted after the PJM states' governors' put pressure on PJM. And although the prices reached the cap, PJM did not meet the reliability requirement. This is mainly due to the forecasted demand for data centers which is completely opaque. Data centers are entering nondisclosure agreements and exploring multiple sites so PJM, by its own admission, does not really have any idea how much demand is real. Maryland needs to demand that data center planning is transparent, so that energy planning can be realistic and prices can be kept under control.

Besides energy, data centers have enormous impacts on multiple things - water, noise, traffic, and pollution – to name just a few. Without transparency and planning, communities cannot control the quality of life. Communities have a right to a say in things that affect them so seriously.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB1411**.

Thank you.