

**MD HB 120: Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers - Co-Location and Generation Contingency:** Please **VOTE IN SUPPORT** of this bill.

Dear Environment & Transportation Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully write in **strong support of HB 120 – Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers – Co-Location and Generation Contingency.**

Maryland is at a critical crossroads when it comes to **energy reliability, land use, environmental protection, and community impact.** **HB 120** takes a prudent and responsible pause to ensure that the rapid expansion of large-scale data centers does not outpace our ability to provide reliable power, protect residents, or plan sustainably.

Data centers are extraordinarily **energy- and water-intensive**, and their unchecked growth places enormous strain on the electric grid, local infrastructure, and surrounding communities. Without clear requirements for **co-location with generation and firm contingency planning**, Maryland risks increased energy costs for residents, reduced grid reliability, and greater dependence on fossil fuel “quick fixes” when demand spikes.

**HB 120** is not anti-technology or anti-business. Rather, it is **pro-planning, pro-responsibility, and pro-community.** A temporary moratorium allows the state to ensure that new data centers are built **only when adequate generation capacity is available**, preventing harm to existing ratepayers and avoiding emergency infrastructure decisions that disproportionately burden working families.

Just as importantly, this bill protects **local communities** from rushed siting decisions that can affect land use, water resources, noise levels, and environmental quality for decades to come. Residents deserve transparency and thoughtful planning—not after-the-fact mitigation once the damage is done.

**HB 120** sends a clear message that Maryland values **smart growth over reckless growth**, and that large corporate infrastructure projects must meet clear standards before moving forward. Taking the time to get this right now will save taxpayers, ratepayers, and communities from far greater costs later.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **vote in support of HB 120.**

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to responsible stewardship of Maryland’s resources and communities.

Sincerely,  
Trudy Tibbals

