

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB1287 – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – BURDEN Analysis (CHERISH Our Communities 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 HB1287, the CHERISH Our Communities Act.

I attended a meeting in Baltimore County about a possible data center construction in the Woodlawn area a few months ago. I was shocked to find out that Baltimore County has limited the areas where data centers can be built, and the limits are not based on what areas are already overburdened with polluting industries. There should be limits on where data centers can be built, and also on where energy generation facilities can be built, if they will contribute to pollution in the area, but those limits should be based on fairness. Energy generating facilities which pollute should not be permitted to be built in places where there is already a high concentration of pollution. Clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and battery should be encouraged.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB1287**.

Thank you.