



Testimony on: HB 1411 – Data Center Planning and Transparency Act
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization: Mobilize Frederick
Submitting: Kathy Kinsey
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 10, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of HB 1411 - Data Center Planning and Transparency Act. Mobilize Frederick, a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementation of innovative local solutions to address climate change, strongly urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on HB 1411, which would establish public reporting and local government data center development planning requirements.

Frederick County is among at least eight Maryland local government jurisdictions where hyperscale data center development is underway or proposed. The County and its residents have learned first-hand the importance of understanding the economic, environmental, energy, climate, and community impacts of data centers and the need for advance planning to ensure sustainable development and minimize community impacts. Through formation of a Frederick County Data Center Workgroup to develop regulatory recommendations and the recent adoption of two separate ordinances, the County has limited data center development to a single overlay zone centered on a brownfield site and adopted data center-specific siting requirements to manage impacts. Even so, as we continue to learn more about data center impacts, it is clear that additional regulatory measures are needed.

As is the case across the Country, data center development in Maryland is largely regulated by local governments that do not currently have the information or resources to effectively evaluate development applications and ensure sustainable management of this rapidly growing and well-funded sector. Effective State-level oversight is not possible because, at present, no State agency is tracking or monitoring the growth of this industry in Maryland. Information about energy use, impacts on electricity rates, water consumption, backup diesel generators, projected noise levels, job creation, the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure, and other essential information related to data center construction and operation is not readily available. Without transparency, detailed information, and proper planning, sound management of data center growth is not possible at the State or local government levels.

HB 1411 establishes the following key public reporting and local government planning requirements needed to sustainably manage data center development in Maryland:

- As a condition of receiving the current State sales and use tax exemption, HB 1411 requires large-scale data center owners or operators to submit detailed disclosure reports to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), and local government agencies and elected officials.
- MDE is required to publish the reports on its website.
- By June 30, 2027, each local jurisdiction with at least 10,000 residents is required to adopt by local law and submit to the Maryland Department of Planning, a detailed plan informed by public input, to govern large scale data center development within its jurisdiction.

By mandating public reporting and local government planning, HB 1411 will facilitate informed regulatory decisions by the State and local governments and sustainable management of data center projects. For these reasons we request a **favorable** report on HB 1411.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHY KINSEY
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

cc: Karen Cannon, Executive Director