

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

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing to urge your **support for HB1411 – Environment – Data Centers – Environmental Review and Community Transparency.**

Data centers are expanding rapidly across the country, often landing in communities with little notice and even less transparency. These facilities can consume massive amounts of electricity and water, generate noise and pollution, and strain local infrastructure — yet residents are frequently kept in the dark until after deals are signed.

My mother is 97 years old and living in a modest home in Carroll County. Her last electricity bill was \$ 677! And she never puts the heat over 65 degrees during the day. She pays over \$200 per year just to have her awning taken down after the summer to let some sunlight hopefully help warm the room that she spends most of her time in.

CNBC noted that “the [data centers](#) that power the artificial intelligence revolution are [driving up electricity prices](#) for households — and price relief may not be coming anytime soon, according to energy experts.” Marylanders are already seeing their energy bills soaring without data centers. Poor and low wage workers as well as many elderly cannot afford even further increased costs. And communities that already struggle under the weight of environmentally harmful industries certainly do not need this added to their burden.

HB1411 demands honesty and accountability by requiring environmental reviews, public disclosure, and community impact transparency before data centers move forward. Maryland cannot allow corporate developers to treat communities as expendable or invisible. People deserve to know what is being built around them, how it will affect their health and environment, and who is profiting from it.

I urge you to vote Favorable on HB1411 and support its passage through the General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Girdner