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## Environment and Transportation Committee

**To:** Delegate Marc Korman, Chair; Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

### **OPPOSE - House Bill 120 – Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers – Co-Location and Generation Contingency**

The Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association respectfully opposes House Bill 120. This legislation imposes a categorical prohibition on the construction of new data centers in Maryland and prevents State and local governments from approving otherwise lawful projects. The Association represents over 10,500 skilled union workers — including steamfitters, plumbers, pipefitters, welders, and HVACR technicians — across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. It comprises seven affiliated local unions and approximately 400 union signatory contractors, collectively supporting a substantial economic footprint through wages, benefits, apprenticeship training, procurement, and State and local tax revenue.

Data centers generate sustained, high-skilled employment during initial construction and long-term operations and maintenance. These projects directly support registered apprenticeship programs, prevailing-wage career pathways, and employer-funded health and retirement plans. The Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades' workforce contributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the regional economy through payroll, contractor activity, and community spending. Eliminating an entire category of infrastructure development removes these opportunities for Maryland workers while neighboring jurisdictions actively compete to attract this investment.

The Association's membership is drawn from seven local unions — including Locals 5, 10, 110, 74, 486, 602, and 669 — and operates throughout Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Virginia. The Association is affiliated with the United Association and partners with hundreds of union contractors who employ, train, and sustain this skilled workforce.

The Association supports responsible siting, environmental review, and robust energy-reliability standards. However, an outright prohibition eliminates local discretion and prevents jurisdictions from negotiating workforce standards, project labor agreements, community benefits, and infrastructure upgrades that ensure balanced outcomes for residents and workers alike. Maryland already has robust permitting and regulatory frameworks capable of evaluating these projects on their merits without resorting to a blanket ban.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 120.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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**Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5** – Lanham, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10** – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110** – Norfolk, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 74** – Newark, DE

**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486** – Baltimore, MD  
**Steamfitters Local 602** – Capitol Heights, MD  
**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669** – Columbia, MD