

HB1411_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#1411- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Data Center Planning and Transparency Act

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee **FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1411, **Data Center Planning and Transparency Act**

As the Data Center industry attempts to expand within Maryland more information is needed so the affected jurisdictions and their residents have a fuller picture of the effects of siting a data center in that location.

Among the things this bill will accomplish are requiring certain local jurisdictions to adopt zoning regulations to implement the plan; prohibiting an officer or a unit of State government from using any part of an appropriation to provide certain financial assistance or incentives to an owner or operator of a large-scale data center unless certain conditions are met; altering the requirements for qualified data center personal property to be eligible for an exemption from the sales and use tax; and other items generally relating to data centers. Specific content for the reporting is outlined.

This bill will require an owner or operator of a large-scale data center to submit a disclosure report to certain State and local agencies and elected officials under certain circumstances; specify the contents of the disclosure report; require the Department of the Environment to publish the disclosure report on its website within 30 days of receiving the report; require, by June 30, 2027, each local jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 residents to adopt by local law a large-scale data center plan; etc.

Responsible expansion of data centers can only occur when all of the possible questions and permutations of that site are fully investigated and communicated.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1411.