

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 940 – Large Load Customers – Electric System Interconnection and Demand Response Program (Data Center Clean Capacity)

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 20, 2026

Dear Chair Koman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mona Guilfoil and I am writing in support of HB 940.

I live in rural Carroll county. I am a member of MD Third Act which along with over forty other environmental, advocacy and community organizations forms the Nature Forward Coalition of Marylanders for Data Center Reform(MDCR). My neighbors and community in Carroll County are in the path of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). This 67-mile transmission line is being planned to bring power from Pennsylvania through Maryland to hyperscale data centers in Northern Virginia--- Data Center Alley. Maryland farms, businesses, neighborhoods, even land in preservation are being threatened by this project because these large load, hyperscale data centers require so much energy. They are straining the grid and we are expected to pay the price. Clearly, we need responsible, fair, forward-looking planning for data center development. We need HB 940.

This bill would:

- Establish a voluntary [demand response](#) program for data centers
- Require that new data centers get at least 25% of their energy from carbon-free sources or demand response
- Prioritize data centers that bring their own clean energy
- Require that data centers pay into a community benefit fund

This bill is a necessary step to ensure that data centers help build up our grid, not just take from it. It will help us prevent ill-conceived, costly, and unfair projects