

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

My name is Hazel Huey. I am submitting testimony as an individual. I am in support of HB0940, sponsored by Delegate Charkoudian.

The bill will:

- Establish a voluntary [demand response](#) program
- 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

I am deeply concerned about the many negative impacts of data centers, including impacts to human health, the environment, and personal and regional economies, as well as the immense impacts to our water supply and power /energy supply. These impacts could potentially leave our communities with dire medical issues, destroy aquatic environments, create land grabs, and residents might face insurmountable expenses for power and water.

With major energy sources struggling to keep up with the heightened demand, smaller data centers and other commercial and industrial sources can play a critical role in stabilizing the grid by participating in demand response programs and implementing battery storage solutions.

HB0940 is a necessary step to ensure that data centers help build up our grid, not just take from it.

HB0940 should receive a favorable vote and moved out of committee.

Sincerely,

Hazel Huey

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