



House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 10, 2026
House Bill 1411 – *Data Center Planning and Transparency Act*
POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State’s largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country’s number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State’s life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1411.

The MTC represents hundreds of technology and life sciences companies that drive innovation, economic growth, and high-quality jobs throughout Maryland. Data centers are a foundational part of that ecosystem, enabling cloud computing, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, health data infrastructure, and the digital services that support Maryland’s public and private sectors.

While we appreciate the sponsor’s interest in ensuring transparency and thoughtful planning around large infrastructure projects, House Bill 1411 would create significant regulatory and economic barriers that risk undermining Maryland’s competitiveness in the rapidly expanding data center sector.

First, the bill would impose extensive reporting and disclosure requirements that go beyond what is required in most competing states. Requiring operators of large-scale data centers to submit detailed disclosure reports to multiple state and local entities, combined with mandatory public posting, creates administrative burdens and raises concerns regarding proprietary operational information. Such requirements may discourage companies from locating major infrastructure investments in Maryland.

Second, House Bill 1411 mandates that local jurisdictions adopt data center planning frameworks and zoning regulations within a defined timeline. While local planning is important, a state-mandated approach risks creating uncertainty and inconsistency across jurisdictions. The bill also imposes additional responsibilities on local governments that could delay projects and increase permitting complexity.

Third, the bill restricts state financial assistance and modifies the eligibility requirements for existing tax incentives related to data center equipment. Maryland competes with states, such as Virginia, North Carolina, and Ohio for large-scale investments in digital infrastructure. Changes to incentive eligibility when combined with new regulatory requirements could make Maryland less competitive in attracting these projects, which often involve billions of dollars in capital investment and significant job creation.

Finally, the cumulative effect of these provisions may unintentionally discourage the very investments Maryland seeks to attract. Data centers are long-term infrastructure investments that depend on regulatory certainty, predictable tax policy, and efficient permitting processes. Policies that add uncertainty or new restrictions may shift investment to neighboring states.

The MTC strongly supports responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and collaboration with local communities. However, we believe House Bill 1411 would have the unintended consequence of discouraging investment in Maryland's digital infrastructure economy. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 1411 an **unfavorable** report.

For more information call:

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