

January 30, 2026

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Distinguished Committee Members,

I'm writing in support, with amendments, of House Bill 120 - Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers, and urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on this legislation **with amendments**.

Residents across Maryland are voicing their concerns about data center development driving up energy costs for consumers. Jurisdictions considering data center development to increase local revenue have been met with concerns about the environment and quality of life as well.

Clear evidence exists that as data centers have multiplied in Northern Virginia the PJM grid capacity auction prices have risen exponentially. We are all now paying the price for the energy data centers are consuming as their ownership, multi-billion dollar corporations, are reaping the benefits.

I support House Bill 120, with amendments, because Maryland cannot afford to add the energy demand data centers will bring to an already over-taxed energy grid. My suggestion is to **amend HB120 to include language prohibiting any data center development until after the Data Center Impact and Analysis Report has been completed and any recommendations included within that Report have been acted upon**.

Additionally, I suggest **amending the bill to remove Section 3** that would permit development of a data center if the General Assembly enacts legislation requiring co-location with a power generation facility.

It would not be appropriate to permit development of data centers under any circumstances until Maryland fully understands the impacts on our infrastructure, environment, and financial outlook. Again, I urge a **favorable report with amendments**.

Thank you,

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