



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## House Bill 1411 Data Center Planning and Transparency Act

**Date:** March 10, 2026

**To:** Environment & Transportation Committee

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

**From:** Gussie Maguire  
MD Staff Scientist

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 1411** which requires local jurisdictions to plan and zone for large-scale data centers, limits state and local financial assistance to data center owners and operators in the absence of a local data center zoning plan, and requires owners and operators of large-scale data center to disclose key information, including projected energy usage and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

As the data center footprint in Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay watershed continues to grow, significant uncertainty remains regarding the true environmental cost of these installations—largely thanks to the non-disclosure agreements and other tactics used by data center owner/operators and their biggest tenants. However, we understand the land use changes and air and water pollution associated with data centers, as well as energy and water demand, put Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals at risk. Decisionmakers cannot adequately protect the region's population and natural resources in the absence of accurate information.

The disclosure requirements in HB 1411 take an important step towards ensuring that these new installations will not slow or stymie Chesapeake Bay restoration progress. Similarly, requiring local jurisdictions to adequately plan and zone for data centers, with public notice guidance, community benefits, and (cumulative) environmental impacts explicitly included, will help ensure that data centers in Maryland are put in the right places with the right protections for people and for the environment.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1411.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*