



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB 0120**

### **Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers – Co-Location and Generation Contingency**

#### **Environment and Transportation Committee**

#### **FAVORABLE**

TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair; Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee; and

FROM: Patrick Crump, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: January 30, 2026

The Episcopal Church believes that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018). Our Church has passed numerous resolutions calling for the phase-out of fossil fuels and a responsible transition toward a clean energy future in order to protect God's creation. And the Church is committed to environmental justice, with a specific concern for reducing economic impacts on lower-income communities.

The scale of data center energy usage is enormous. PJM Interconnection, the large regional grid operator covering Maryland as well as 12 other Mid-Atlantic states and DC, is projecting more than five gigawatts (GW) of new electricity demand every year between now and 2030. To meet this surge in demand, much of the recent policy focus has been on bringing new natural gas-fired generation to market, which presents a serious challenge to Maryland's clean energy policies. In the short term, utilities in the Mid-Atlantic region are predicting a substantially higher chance of rolling blackouts by the end of the decade as new data center loads exceed the available electricity supply. And, under current policies, all electricity ratepayers share the costs of system expansion and maintenance. The data center boom thus threatens Maryland's clean energy transition, energy affordability, and grid reliability.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges the Environment and Transportation Committee to support the Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers, and to put in place regulations to protect ratepayers and Maryland's clean energy targets.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

*The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA*