



HB1411

Data Center Planning and Transparency Act

Testimony before Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing 10 March 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB1411**, which would require public reporting and local government planning requirements needed to sustainably manage data center development in Maryland. We thank Delegate Ruth for introducing this bill.

Data center development is largely regulated at the local government level and in Maryland hyperscale data center development is underway or proposed in at least eight local government jurisdictions. Nearly all of these jurisdictions are ill-equipped to address the economic, energy, environmental, and climate impacts of these data centers.

HB1411 establishes the following important public reporting and local government planning requirements needed to sustainably manage data center development in Maryland:

- As a condition of receiving the current state sales and use tax incentive, HB 1411 requires data center owners to submit disclosure reports to the MDE, the MEA, and local agencies and elected officials. MDE is required to publish the reports on its website.
- The reports must include data center information, such as: community benefits; signed utility interconnection agreements; facility size ; projected daily electric use (MW) and power sources; need for transmission infrastructure; back-up generation; projected emissions; water use and sources; projected noise levels; construction plans and timeline; and the number of post-construction jobs.
- Each local jurisdiction with at least 10,000 residents is required to adopt local law and submit to the Maryland Department of Planning a detailed plan, informed by public input, to govern data center development within its jurisdiction.

HB1411 is a first step toward responsible management of data center projects, requiring local planning with community input and statewide reporting. By conditioning eligibility for exemption from the State sales and use tax, this bill will incentivize data center developers to provide the key information that Maryland agencies and local governments need to make informed regulatory decisions and sustainably manage data center projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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