



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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**TESTIMONY OF FRANK MAHONEY
DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
CARPENTERS
BEFORE THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 120 – UNFAVORABLE**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters respectfully opposes House Bill 120. This legislation imposes a categorical prohibition on the construction of new data centers in Maryland and prevents State and local governments from approving otherwise lawful projects, regardless of location, energy configuration, or workforce standards. Such a blanket moratorium would eliminate a significant and growing source of skilled construction employment and economic development within the State.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters represents over 40,000 skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our members perform highly specialized work including general carpentry, concrete formwork, pile driving, interior systems, and millwright services. The Council partners with a broad network of union contractors and maintains 17 state-of-the-art training centers, including facilities in Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, that provide comprehensive, debt-free registered apprenticeship programs and continuing education for career advancement.

Data center construction and long-term facility operations create sustained demand for these skills, support prevailing-wage employment, and reinforce apprenticeship pipelines that prepare the next generation of skilled workers. These projects generate significant private investment and State and local tax revenues, while also allowing jurisdictions to negotiate workforce standards, safety requirements, and community benefits tailored to local needs.

While the Council supports responsible siting, environmental review, and strong energy-reliability standards, House Bill 120 removes local discretion entirely and forecloses opportunities to structure development in a manner that benefits both communities and workers. Maryland already possesses robust permitting and regulatory frameworks capable of evaluating such projects without resorting to an absolute prohibition.

For these reasons, the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 120.

Sincerely,

Frank Mahoney
Deputy Political Director
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters