

I'm writing in favor of HB560, which would repeal the [Sales and Use Tax and Property Tax Exemptions](#) that incentivize data center development without conditions to protect the environment or our communities.

As someone who used to work for a municipal economic development office, I saw first-hand how cities fall all over themselves time and time again to accommodate big businesses with tax breaks in exchange for the promise of jobs and increased revenue. I also saw first-hand how this never works out and ends up costing cities tremendously – not simply in the form of lost revenue, but in huge environmental costs that impact the health and well-being of communities and our planet, job creation numbers that always fall far short of estimates, and failed businesses that up and leave when things don't work out for them, without cleaning up the mess they leave behind (and sticking taxpayers with those additional costs in the process).

We have seen over and over again that lost revenues in the case of data center tax breaks are significantly higher than estimates.

In Illinois, it was estimated that the lost revenue from a similar tax break would cost the state \$10M. The actual cost is \$370M. In Texas, they estimated that the state would lose \$150M. The actual cost is \$1B. [\(Source\)](#)

And in Virginia, a similar story: [Virginia Tax Revenue Losses to Data Centers Soar to \\$1.6 Billion for FY25](#)

We should not even be allowing data center development at all without properly studying the adverse environmental and community impacts (which will be difficult if not impossible to recover from at all if we follow this runaway-train mentality and allow data center developers to do whatever they want).

But we should certainly, *at the very bare minimum*, be requiring these behemoths run by multi-billionaires to pay their fair share of taxes. Data centers will set us back decades in terms of environmental goals, and they should pay every penny of their fair share of taxes to help communities recover from the barrage of negative impacts these facilities will have.

The impacts of data centers are clear even without studies. We already know they are massive consumers of water, energy, and other precious resources. They destroy habitat and pollute our air and water.

**Please stop with the corporate welfare for multi-billionaires at the expense of Maryland residents and our environment, and make these businesses pay their taxes!! Please do your duty to Maryland residents and pass HB560.**