

February 10, 2026

Written Testimony in Favor of HB0560 – Ways and Means – Sales and Use Tax and Property Tax - Exemptions for Data Centers – Repeal

To: Ways and Means Committee

I am submitting testimony as an individual. I am in support of HB0560, sponsored by Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al. This bill concerns repealing an exemption from the sales and use tax for certain sales of certain personal property for use at certain qualified data centers under certain circumstances; and repealing the authorization for a governing body of a county or municipal corporation to reduce or eliminate the assessment of certain personal property used in certain qualified data centers.

There are numerous reasons this bill should receive a favorable report. These include:

1. Qualified data centers are projects of billionaires. By definition, they do not need to receive tax exemptions.
2. Qualified data centers are for humans, our natural resources (land, water, air), water and electric power utilities, and the economy (especially of residents). Ultimately, they are bad for Maryland. The construction of qualified data centers should be discouraged and not financially encouraged.
3. Qualified data centers primarily support AI and are used for surveillance; fact, not conspiracy theory. No surveillance entity should be in Maryland, nor should they receive tax exemptions. For example, Amazon Web Services has data centers that are facilitating Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. This should not be allowed in Maryland.

These are just a few points about why HB0560 should receive a favorable vote and moved out of committee. Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Sincerely,

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