

August 27th, 2026

Dear Governor Moore and State Legislators:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support state legislation to establish a temporary statewide moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers in Maryland.

The explosive growth of data centers is one of the biggest affordability and environmental threats of our generation. This rapid expansion of data centers is straining water resources, raising electricity prices, emitting harmful pollutants, and driving more fossil fuel production to meet new energy demands among a host of other issues like noise pollution, vibration impacts, and e-waste. All this compounds the significant and concerning impacts data centers are having on society, including lost jobs, social instability, and concentration of wealth.

The scale and speed of data center development have accelerated so quickly that governments have not had the time or space to systematically evaluate the impacts and put thoughtful guardrails in place. As a result, key economic and environmental questions remain unresolved, and communities and ratepayers are being asked to absorb risks before clear standards are established.

The threat of skyrocketing electric bills, mostly caused by data centers, is particularly troubling. Maryland's residential customers have seen a 44 percent increase in residential rates between 2020 and 2025. The rapid ever accelerating build-out of data centers risks exacerbating this harmful trend, driving up energy bills for Marylanders while threatening Maryland watersheds and our communities with enormous water withdrawals and possible chemical contamination.

Some Maryland officials have also suggested building new fossil fuel power plants to provide energy for these data centers that would further exacerbate the issues related to electricity bills, water consumption, and pollution. Historically, fossil fuel and nuclear infrastructure that would be built to support data centers has been sited in low-income and Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities already burdened by environmental injustice.

Currently, almost all data center approvals happen at a municipality level, while the effects of a AI data center will be felt by everyone in Maryland.

All this rapid, largely unregulated rise of data centers is meant to mostly fuel the AI and crypto frenzy that is currently disrupting communities across the country.

For all these reasons, we urge you to support legislation that establishes a temporary statewide moratorium on new data centers until their harms can be fully assessed and understood, and adequate new laws and regulations can be enacted to fully protect our communities, our families, our environment and our health from the runaway harm this industry is already inflicting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Food & Water Watch

17 for Peace and Justice

350 Montgomery County

ACQ (Ask the Climate Question)

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Back River Community Action Group

Baltimore 350

Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace

Baltimore Rapid Response Network

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Blue Water Baltimore

Catonsville Indivisibles Group

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Ministry

CEEJH INC

Charles County Against Data Centers Coalition

Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Citizens For Calvert

Citizens for Responsible Growth (CRG)

Climate Coalition Montgomery County

Climate Communications Coalition

Coal Free Curtis Bay

Community Development Network of MD

Conservation Montgomery

Environmental Justice Action Team (EJAT)

Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

Fix Maryland Rail

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

Friends of Ten Mile Creek & Little Seneca Reservoir

Glenn Dale Citizens' Association, Inc.

Green Sanctuary, UU Church of Silver Spring

HoCo Climate Action

Indivisible Charles County MD

Indivisible Hampden-Medfield

Indivisible HoCoMD

Liberation Inc.

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Melting Virgo

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Mothers Out Front

Mountainside Education and Enrichment

Nature Forward

Our Land. Our Home. Our Baltimore County.

Our Land. Our Home. Our Harford.

Policy Foundation INC.

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Progressive Cheverly

Progressive Maryland

Route 202 Neighborhood Coalition

Seneca Creek Watershed Partners

Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

Sustainable Hyattsville

Third Act Maryland

West Montgomery County Citizens Association (WMCCA)

Women's Action Coalition (Cumberland)

Young, Gifted & Green

Women's Democratic Club, Montgomery County MD

Community Native Planting Project

The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County, MD

Climate Communications Coalition