



Public Health and Environment Committee
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holiday Street
Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Members of the Public Health and Environment Committee:

Community Law Center (CLC) writes **in support** of City Council Resolution 26-0050R: Informational Hearing – Data Centers – Community Impact and Use Standards.

As the legal partner to Baltimore City neighborhoods and nonprofits in pursuit of more just and vibrant communities, CLC applauds City Council’s proactive stance concerning data center development. Inviting the Office of the People’s Council, the Public Service Commission, the Department of Planning, the Law Department, the Department of Finance, the Health Department, and the Department of Public Works to appear before the Council to discuss data centers’ potential impacts on public health, electricity rates, and urban vitality—and implementation of a legal framework for data center development—will lead to productive conversations about the appropriate role and siting of data centers in Baltimore City.

On behalf of our client communities, CLC has been studying data center zoning legislation in neighboring jurisdictions for the better part of the past year. We are also informed by a January 2026 report by the Southern Environmental Law Center¹ highlighting best practices to data center zoning that protect environmental integrity, preserve community vitality, and ensure that data centers do not contribute to the cumulative impact of environmental harm on municipalities’ most burdened communities.

Informed in this way and for these purposes, CLC commits to actively contributing to and participating in forthcoming public hearings regarding the role of data centers in Baltimore City’s communities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Philip Glaser
Philip Glaser
Staff Attorney
phil@communitylaw.org

/s/ Amy Petkovsek
Amy Petkovsek
Executive Director
amyp@communitylaw.org

/s/ Christina Schoppert Devereux
Christina Schoppert Devereux
Staff Attorney
christinas@communitylaw.org

¹ Getting It Right: Local Approaches to Data Center Development, Southern Environmental Law Center. Available at https://www.selc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SELC-Data-Center-Development-Report-All-0126_F.pdf.