


FROM	NAME & TITLE	JARED LYLES AND MORGAN GROVE, CO-CHAIRS	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #26-0158-Data Center Moratorium		

DATE: April 10th 2026

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street
Position: Support

The Commission on Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #26-0158 – Data Centers - Moratorium. CCB#26-03158 updates Article 32 of the Zoning Code to prohibit the building and/or use of data centers across Baltimore City for one year following the date of enactment. Per the definition in CCB-26-0158 - this prohibition refers to facilities used for remote data storage and those that use more than 10 megawatts of energy.

The Commission on Sustainability supports the data center moratorium goal of CCB-26-0158, as it addresses many environmental, public health and equity concerns related to the proliferation of data centers nationally. As data-dependent technologies such as artificial intelligence, large language models and cloud computing become central to many industries and professions, it is imperative that Baltimore City balance the costs, benefits and tradeoffs. According to a report released by Climate Mayors entitled - [Data Centers and Climate Landscape](#), data centers have been associated with large energy use and resulting impacts on energy grids, large water use to cool servers and infrastructure, increases in energy costs for residents and environmental exposures in communities such as air and/or noise pollution.

Cities and local governments nationally have taken steps to address data center concerns through moratoriums, zoning code updates, developed stricter site criteria or design standards. In Maryland, Frederick and Prince George’s Counties have taken action through [zoning overlays](#) and a 6-month moratorium and released a [Qualified Data Center](#) report, respectively. Harrisonburg, VA, Phoenix, AZ and Atlanta, GA have also taken steps to protect their cities and residents from the potential negative impacts of data centers, and where possible, extract the most benefit for their respective communities.

Please contact Derek Baumgardner or Bernat Navarro who lead the Legislative Subcommittee of the Commission on Sustainability with questions regarding this bill report.

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office
The Honorable Zeke Cohen, City Council President

The Honorable Phylcia Porter, Council Representative to the Commission on Sustainability

Ms. Brittany Vendryes, Esq., Executive Director, Environmental Control Board

Mrs. Ren Southard, Director, Department of Planning

Mrs. Ava Richardson, Director, Office of Sustainability