



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

*Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County*

Date: 18 May 2026

Subject: **HCCA Testimony Regarding CB31-2026**

Dear Howard County Council,

I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville testifying for the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President. We want to congratulate Council member Christina Rigby on taking the initiative in investigating the Data Centers. This is definitely a step in the right direction. Victor Hugo, stated, "Initiative is doing the right thing without being told." Ms. Rigby, this was you! Thank you.

However, before we go further there are some questions and suggestions we have in an attempt to make this Bill more meaningful.

Please refer to Council-member Rigby's News Release the second paragraph states, "The moratorium will sunset once the County adopts updated zoning regulations or completes the next comprehensive zoning process." The problem is in both these cases they are woefully out of date, because the Administration has failed to take the necessary action during their tenure. So, the question is when can anyone depend on a completion date? We are very skeptical especially since there was an excellent strategic plan in 2016 performed by Clarion regarding the Development Regulations Assessment. This can be found on the County Website especially when you see over 700 comments from the public. It had and still does have a lot of merit! The Comprehensive Zoning Process is required to be completed every 10 years. It is now nearly 3 years out of date. Why? This is inexcusable!

Please refer to the Bill, page 1, line 29 — it states a "temporary moratorium on new data center development." We strongly suggest the word "temporary be defined on page 4 in Section C.

Refer to page 2, line 23 — how long do you envision will be the "Effective Period?" Why in Section 6.E when referring to page 4, lines 16 thru 18 are the following agencies declared exempt; the Public School System, the Community College and the Library?

Refer to page 3, line 19 — please tell us how the Task Force will be chosen, what qualifications will be required of its members, and how many will be on the Task Force?

Refer to page 4, lines 25 thru 27 — it states, "Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Act." Why do you think this Act might be considered unconstitutional? Furthermore, how will the remaining parts of the Act be enforceable if found to be declared unconstitutional.

We only hope that this Bill once amended that attention to detail will turn out to indeed be a very SMART move to protect the welfare and safety of all Howard County residents. In this case SMART should stand for Sensible-Manageable-Accountable-Reliable-Transition.

Council member Rigby, your initiative is very commendable and should be congratulated, but only if positive actions are taken to ensure the future of us all is fully protected.

Thank you,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President