



**House Bill 579 -- *Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)***

**House Economic Matters Committee**

**February 22, 2024**

**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 579 -- *Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)*.

House Bill 579 alters establishes the definition of "generating station" for the purpose of exempting the construction of generating facilities used to produce electricity for the purpose of onsite emergency backup and certain test and maintenance operations from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity or certain other related approvals.

MCCC supports this bill because it implicitly understands that Maryland must be a part of an innovative economy by protecting its growing technology industries. These industries include, but are not limited to, data centers. Maryland, with its proximity to Internet hubs in Virginia and incentives already put in place by the Maryland General Assembly to grow the data center industry, is poised to grow this vital segment of the economy. Without the proper pieces in place, such as generating stations that provide necessary emergency backup power, the data industry cannot grow and thrive in Maryland.

The data center industry does not just provide jobs and economic opportunity, but it can also provide significant property tax revenue to local governments. Furthermore, the data center industry is a steppingstone to other technologies and industries that every state covets for economic development, including the development of artificial intelligence and quantum computing. This bill provides important tools for economic growth while keeping in place important environmental regulations pertaining to backup generators.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 579 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

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