

# Support SB 1078

Topic: The siting of data centers; impacts on resources and site assessment

Bill Patron: Senator Chap Peterson

## Overview:

SB 1078 is a bill that would block the construction of data centers within one mile of a national park site, a state park, or other historically significant site. The bill also requires that prior to any approval of a data center by a local government, a site assessment must be performed to examine the effect of the data center on water usage and carbon emissions, as well as any impacts on agricultural resources.

## Reasons to support:

- Data centers are large warehouses that store computers and data. They are generally owned by the largest and wealthiest corporations in the world like Amazon, Microsoft, and Google. Because of this wealth, developers are able to offer landowners staggering amounts of money for their property and promise enormous resources to localities. This wealth often leads to smart growth zoning practices being abandoned by localities.
- Data Centers consume 2% of total U.S energy consumption, and they consume up to 3-5 million gallons of water a day. That is equivalent to what a city of 30,000 to 50,000 people uses in a year. Data centers also require massive amounts of land. One proposal in Prince William County is planning for 27 million square feet of data centers – the equivalent of 150 Wal-Mart Supercenters.
- Currently, the state has absolutely no control over where data centers are sited, nor do they have any understanding of the impacts these proposals have on Virginia's climate goals, water resources, or land preservation efforts. This bill works to solve both of these problems.
- This bill will provide common-sense buffers around invaluable historic resources, and Virginia's 22 national park sites and 41 state parks.



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