

SUPPORT HB910

Topic: Department of Energy; data center energy usage. Requires each data center located in the Commonwealth to make a quarterly energy source report to the Department of Energy's Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency that identifies the amount of energy, disaggregated by the source of energy, consumed by the data center in the previous quarter. The bill requires the Division to publish aggregate deidentified data from such reports on its website.

The bill also directs the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to convene a work group to estimate the future energy demands of the data center industry in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the work group to include representatives from the Department of Energy, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, the State Corporation Commission, the data center industry, electric utilities, and other interested stakeholders. The Secretary is required to report the findings of the work group to the General Assembly by November 30, 2024.

Bill Patron: Delegate Srinivasan

OVERVIEW:

This bill would provide more information and transparency around energy usage of data centers, information that is currently severely lacking and hindering the Commonwealth's ability to fully understand the impact of the booming data center market in Virginia on the electrical infrastructure and climate goals of the state. In addition, this bill would initiate a work group to providing some state level planning of future energy demands of the industry. This kind of proactive state level analysis and planning is not happening currently and is the main reason for the controversial, expedited transmission line projects moving forward in Loudoun, Prince William, Fauquier, and Albemarle counties.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- There is very little transparency around the power usage of this industry although Dominion and PJM (our regional transmission operator) have made it clear that data centers are a significant driver in forecasts showing sky-rocketing power demand. Tracking and publishing this information publically is fundamental to getting a handle on this issue.
- It is critical to track power usage and start statewide planning because the cost of transmission and generation infrastructure that will be needed may fall on non-data center ratepayers if changes are not made to the rate structure.
- Virginians need this transparency to ensure we are not blindly subsidizing the infrastructure needs of the largest companies in the world or forfeiting the state's climate initiatives.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.