



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President  
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January 25, 2023

Dear Senators:

I am writing in opposition to Senator Petersen's bill, SB 1078, which would negate the land use decisions of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and undermine the County's efforts to secure the enormous benefits of the Digital Gateway data center development.

The Prince William County Board engaged in extensive study and due diligence, including careful work on environmental mitigations and respect for historic artifacts, and took note of the potential for vastly increasing tax revenues to improve services in their highly diverse county.

We would also point out that the data center industry provides thousands of jobs for skilled trades workers including electricians, and the Digital Gateway will enable thousands of local residents from underserved communities to enter IBEW Local 26 joint apprenticeship programs that lead to middle class careers.

While the industry still needs to do more to address wage theft and exploitation of immigrant workers who build the shells of the data centers, there is an ongoing dialogue regarding their current unwillingness to adopt labor standards. We believe that this could be the most highly unionized and progressive industry in the country once these problems are ironed out.

Please vote against SB 1078 and support the good jobs created by the data center industry.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Dabbs  
Business Manager

