



## **Request for Proposal: Maryland Energy Lobbyist**

Nature Forward is seeking proposals from experienced Maryland General Assembly Lobbyists with a specialty in energy and water to lead renewable energy and data center reform advocacy on behalf of Nature Forward and the coalition Marylanders for Data Center Reform. This contracted role will provide comprehensive state government affairs and lobbying services that advance policies that mitigate the worst impacts of hyperscale data center development and its downstream effects. This role will provide deep legislative knowledge, extensive energy expertise, established relationships with elected officials, and extensive experience with navigating Maryland's General Assembly.

### **Background**

Founded in 1897, Nature Forward (501c3) is the oldest independent environmental organization serving the DC-Metro region. Nature Forward inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy. To fulfill this mission, Nature Forward has four advocacy priorities: 1. Human health & access to nature; 2. Biodiversity & habitats; 3. Climate crisis; and 4. Sustainable land use. In 2025, Nature Forward founded the coalition Marylanders for Data Center Reform to advance state policy that addresses the severe impacts that hyperscale data centers have on Maryland communities and the environment. The coalition represents over 60 different organizations committed to establishing a statewide regulatory framework for hyperscale data center development that promotes community justice, clean water, clean air, renewable energy, transparency, and accountability.

### **Scope of Services**

This contractor will provide comprehensive lobbying and government services including:

1. Register as a lobbyist on behalf of Nature Forward and represent Nature Forward's policy priorities before state elected officials.
2. Track lobbying hours in accordance with Maryland state law.

3. Engage with elected officials in the Maryland General Assembly, the Governor's office, and other relevant state offices to advance policy priorities and state legislation.
4. Provide strategic guidance to Nature Forward on all legislative processes and cycles, political developments, and risks and opportunities.
5. Coordinate and facilitate meetings with state legislative leaders.
6. Monitor and track priority and oppositional legislation for the coalition .
7. Prepare talking points, detailed written testimony, and briefing materials.
8. Support development of effective messaging for legislative priorities.
9. Hold regular strategy calls and update meetings with Nature Forward and Marylanders for Data Center Reform.
10. Provide regular written progress reports detailing legislative activities and outreach.

**Term**

September 2026 to May 2027

**Proposal Budget**

Please provide a cost estimate on the scope of services with a maximum budget of \$40,000.

**Submission Deadline**

Please submit all responses to this RFP by 5 pm on Friday, August 3, 2026, to [conserve@natureforward.org](mailto:conserve@natureforward.org).

**Project Timeline**

- Proposals due by August 3, 2026
- Consultant selected in mid-August 2026
- Project Kickoff September 2026
- Preparation for General Assembly during Fall 2026
- General Assembly Support starting in January 2026
- Post Assembly Support through May 2027

**Proposal Submission Requirements**

- Overview of consultant or firm
- Description of relevant lobbying experience and key qualifications
- Proposed timeline and workplan
- Description of anticipated deliverables

- Proposed budget and project cost breakdown
- Two to three references from similar projects
- Please submit proposals in PDF form to [conserve@natureforward.org](mailto:conserve@natureforward.org)

### **Selection Criteria**

- Experience lobbying in the Maryland General Assembly
- Strategic navigation of legislative committees and the General Assembly process
- Experience working on energy, land use, and conservation issues
- References
- Cost and value

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