

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11

Resolution No. 145-2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – Hye Yeong Kwon– SMART Data Center Task Force

TITLE: A RESOLUTION appointing Hye Yeong Kwon to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

Introduced and read first time Sep 8, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on Sep 22, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments ☐, Failed ☐, Withdrawn ☐, by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified By

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

WHEREAS, on June 1st, 2026, the Howard County Council approved Council Bill 31-2026, which established a temporary prohibition of issuance of certain approvals of development plans on data processing centers, and called for the creation of the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the members of the Task Force are tasked with developing a definition of “Data Center” for the Zoning Regulations; recommending best practices for data center siting and location, setbacks and screening, water consumption and impact, power and energy infrastructure, noise and acoustic mitigation, impact fees or excise tax application, decommissioning plans, removing the data center tax credit; and assessing the impact of data centers on the Howard County Climate Forward: Climate Action and Resiliency Plan; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Council Bill 31-2026, each Councilmember shall nominate one member to the Task Force and the County Executive shall nominate no more than six members with all members appointed by individual Council Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has the utmost confidence in the abilities and the character of:

Hye Yeong Kwon
Fulton, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that Hye Yeong Kwon be appointed as a member of the SMART Data Center Task Force of Howard County, Maryland, to serve from the date this Resolution is adopted until August 3, 2027, or until a successor is appointed.

HYE YEONG KWON (pronounced Hay Young)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) — Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer |

2003 – Present

Lead a national nonprofit organization that has grown rapidly under my leadership. CWP is recognized as a national leader in water resources, stormwater management, watershed planning, and environmental site design, with a diversified revenue portfolio including federal and state agency contracts, foundations, membership, licensing, and individual gifts.

- Serve as chief executive, managing all aspects of association operations: finances, HR, program delivery, compliance, and board engagement for a national organization with over 2,500 members.
- Developed and launched the Clean Water Certificate (CWC) Program—the nation's first ANAB-accredited green infrastructure and stormwater workforce training program—specifically designed to recruit, train, place, and retain individuals from low-income and underemployed communities into living-wage careers in the stormwater industry.
- Designed CWC to integrate with existing workforce development providers and community organizations, creating a structured pipeline from outreach and recruitment through job placement and employer retention support.
- Directed strategic planning processes, setting measurable goals and tracking organizational effectiveness; led organization through growth, restructuring, and change management.
- Managed multi-million dollar federal and state grants and contracts, including compliance with all regulatory and reporting requirements—directly analogous to managing Cooperative Agreement obligations.
- Cultivated relationships with federal agencies (EPA, NOAA, Department of the Interior), state agencies, local governments, and national nonprofits, serving as the primary organizational spokesperson.
- Built and maintained a highly engaged Board of Directors; provided governance training, cultivated board member relationships, and kept the board informed on strategic priorities and financial health.
- Diversified revenue from a handful of government contracts to a robust mix including foundations, individual donors, membership fees, licensing revenue, and consulting services.
- Founded the ANSI-certified Clean Water Certificate program, partnering with accreditation bodies and workforce development organizations nationally.
- 2025 Daily Record Most Admired CEO, Nonprofit—recognized by board members and staff.

Arca Environmental, LLC — Owner / Principal Consultant |

2019 – Present

MBE/WBE/SBE consulting firm providing nonprofit advisory services, including to Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

- Provide strategic consulting to nonprofit executives on finances, board relations, program expansion, and fundraising.
- Facilitate peer learning sessions for executive directors to share best practices on organizational growth and sustainability.
- Contractor to Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, supporting nonprofit capacity building statewide.

Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. — Assistant Director | 1996 – 2003

Provided direct support to the executive director, led major programmatic initiatives, spearheaded foundation and individual fundraising, and managed organizational finances.

- Supervised multiple professional staff and managed complex, award-winning projects.
- Served as primary board support, managing governance materials, communications, and meeting facilitation.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration (MBA) — University of Maryland | Focus: Nonprofits

Master of Science (MS) — University of Maryland | Major: Management

Bachelor of Science (BS) — University of Maryland, College Park | Major: Biology

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair, Credit Committee — State Employees Credit Union of Maryland | 2025 – Present

Credit Committee Member — State Employees Credit Union of Maryland | 2019 – Present

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

• 2025 – Most Admired CEO, Nonprofit — The Daily Record	• 2007 – Maryland Distance Learning Course of the Year, Environmental Management 360
• 2012 – Media Award, Lake County Stormwater Commission, IL	• 2000 – Maryland Chapter APA Professional Achievement Award (Zoning Category)
• 2010 – Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials Lifetime Mensch Award	• National Environmental Education Achievement Award — NEETF, Land Use & Natural Resources

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Teams), QuickBooks, BigTime, Diligent Boards, Zoom, Canva.