



September 12th, 2025

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Maryland Tech Council Support for ZTA 25-11

Dear President Stewart and Members of the Montgomery County Council:

On behalf of the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) and our members, I am writing to ask that the Council pass Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 25-11 to help ensure sustained cellular connectivity in Montgomery County.

MTC is the state's largest technology and life sciences trade association, representing over 850 innovative member companies and affiliates. For 40 years, MTC has been a driving force behind Maryland's growth as a global leader in technology, life sciences, and innovation. Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, MTC empowers businesses to thrive, fostering groundbreaking advancements that impact not only Maryland but also the world.

Connectivity in the form of cellular service is one of the most critical infrastructure needs for our members, including both providers and users. ZTA 25-11 provides a specialized zoning pathway for temporary cellular infrastructure to ensure that in certain edge cases, community members, businesses, and first responders can count on reliable cellular service when it matters most.

This new approval process would be limited to temporary facilities only and would still require approval from the Department of Permitting Services. This amendment would ensure that temporary cellular infrastructure can be deployed in a timely manner if:

- A natural disaster or other emergency impacts the ability of permanent cellular infrastructure to provide adequate service
- Permanent cellular infrastructure on property owned by a bi-county agency or utility is taken offline due to facility repair or renovation
- Temporary infrastructure is needed to support county capital projects or maintenance
- Temporary infrastructure is needed to support unserviceable demand caused by a large conference or special event

Ensuring the consistent and persistent availability of cellular service is both an expectation of county residents and a matter of economic development and public safety. Given this, we respectfully urge a favorable vote on ZTA 25-11. Thank you for considering the Maryland Tech Council's comments. We appreciate your continued support for technology and life sciences in Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Schulz
Chief Executive Officer