

Comment re: Council Bill 4-26

Dear Montgomery County Council President Fani-Gonzalez and Councilmembers,

Rather than creating a task force to study the potential impact of data centers, please put in place a **moratorium on all actions** regarding permits and contracts with data centers until a proper study has been conducted. The State of Maryland will be releasing a study in September 2026. No actions should be taken at the county level, not even the formation of a task force, until after this study has been released and evaluated. The task force needs 1) a clear mission, 2) specific goals, and 3) a defined scope of work. It is impossible to make decisions on the individual pieces of these three components until we have the study in hand and the time to properly review it.

In the meantime, I would urge all of the councilmembers and the appropriate staff to continue to gather information that can be used for comparative analysis purposes. We don't want to repeat mistakes made by other jurisdictions, and we need to learn what has worked well.

One more thing to keep in mind should the Dickerson site continue to be under consideration for development and construction of a data center site. There are other jurisdictions downriver from Dickerson. What is done in Montgomery County will have effects all the way down the Potomac. We have to think of our neighbors in Washington, DC, Prince George's County, Charles County, St. Mary's County, and Calvert County.

It is important that we steer the data center ship. It's our land and our resources. If more data centers want to come to Montgomery County, they must abide by our rules, and our rules must be made to reflect what is best for our residents and our resources.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline Moore

Takoma Park