My name is John Hisle. I am in support of Bill 4-26 – to establish a Task force on Data Centers.

My wife and I have resided in Bethesda, and now Chevy Chase for 43 years. We raised and educated our four children in Montgomery County Schools.

I am retired from the U.S. Public Health Service where I managed large Primary Health Care Programs designed to keep persons across our nation healthy (especially those residing in underserved areas).

I am active in the Catholic Archdioceses' Creation Care Team and lead our large Catholic parish's green team following Pope Francis' mandate to care for Mother Earth our common home in all we do and how we live. I am currently volunteering with Interfaith Power & Light to help promote wise climate policies across the DMV.

Together with my fellow Climate Advocates I have studied the issues around Data Centers and have tremendous concerns about their locating in Montgomery County without major review and study.

The faith communities I belong to are energized and motivated to make sure resident's wise hearts – not Artificial Intelligence (AI) – guide our decision making about data centers in the County.

*While the promised tax revenue from Data Centers is a "golden carrot" it often comes with unintended or hidden costs to a county and its residents. It is crucial, therefore, to carefully study and review the impacts of Data Centers in the county so we do not make the same mistakes made by our neighbors across the river.

* Data Centers consume a huge amount of electricity to operate. Heightened demand for electricity may require that less efficient and more polluting power plants will remain online AND heightened demand with limited energy generating supply usually means higher prices for consumers - Data Centers need to have their own electricity generating capacity using renewable energy & batteries - not diesel generators.

*Data Centers use a huge about of fresh water to cool their computers. Data Center demand for water must be evaluated in the light of county consumers need for fresh water. Any Data Center water use plans must be thoroughly reviewed especially in light of potential droughts occasioned by climate change. Not only current but future needs of the community for clean water must be met before any consideration of Date Center wants are considered.

*Data Center's locations must be thoroughly evaluated to prevent locating them near residential or other commercial districts in the County. Active input from residents needs to be fostered by the County so there are no surprises.

*Data Centers often create worsening air quality in communities in which they operate. County resident's health must come before the wants of Data Centers to operate polluting generators to power their operations. Thank you for listening!