

Testimony on ZTA 26-01 Data Center Commercial Uses - Data Center

March 3, 2026

Bella Radant
Rockville, Maryland

The proposed data centers for montgomery county are going to lead to higher energy prices for the public, increased environmental burden, and the destruction of the natural soundscape of the surrounding areas due to the massive amount of noise pollution. They are neither desirable nor sustainable, data center construction is far outpacing demand and it is readily apparent that the AI boom is due to collapse. It's a waste of money and time with massive impacts on the community.

I understand that Data Centers rely on backup Diesel generators that need to be tested monthly. If the Dickerson facility (which has said it will use them) consumes a gigawatt of energy it would need to test a gigawatt

+ of diesel generators monthly. This is a huge public health issue - and not just for the upcounty. The entire county is already breathing dirtier air as a result of Virginia's data centers. The ZTA you are considering would allow data centers and their generators on all industrial land which exists in every corner of the county in already underserved areas. There is so much we don't know about data centers, it is time for a pause while solid regulations are crafted that protect health, wallets, the Potomac and our climate goals. The current proposed ZTA is not taking these serious impacts into account.

Thank You,

Bella Radant