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Less than six months ago, most of us had never even heard of a data center. And while we're all catching up, there is growing evidence regarding the health risks associated with data centers, including a George Mason University study released just this week. The authors of GMU's study recommend strong regulations to mitigate these harmful impacts.

As a voter and long-time Montgomery County resident, I believe MoCo needs to ensure we have such regulations in place BEFORE we allow the construction of a hyperscale complex of five data centers in Dickerson that will pull water from the Potomac River. Frederick, Baltimore, and Prince Georges Counties have enacted a moratorium on new data center approvals until effective regulations can be put in place. Montgomery County deserves nothing less.

I urge you to put an immediate moratorium in place and undertake a fully transparent process to understand and regulate the impacts that data centers will have on MoCo's residents and our natural environment.