

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

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Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for your service.

The best use of resources to support data centers is the question of the age. If we can adopt best practices, we can help our state and our country conserve resources we may need for other uses. Do you know that Danish data centers are underwater so remain cool and use much less energy? Have you gathered data to inform what our policy should be? Do you embrace the idea that good policy should be informed by best practices and that good policy should precede the approval process? That is the hallmark of a good legislator.

If data centers are right for Montgomery County now, they will be right for the county in 6-12 months when a transparent public process has made a full accounting of where and how data centers can be sited to complement the county's goals - and the biggest question - who pays? Good leadership proceeds carefully and in collaboration. The idea I heard expressed that we can just have these facilities move in and then tax them heavily is backward thinking and won't cover the health and energy costs borne by regular residents. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Again, thank you for your service. May we all strive to be the best voices of MD possible.

Thank You,

Celia Martin