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As a life-long resident of Montgomery County and a long-time supporter of the Agricultural Reserve, I have serious concerns about proposed data centers in Maryland - especially the one narrowly prevented from being railroaded to approval within the Ag Reserve. I think it is a disgrace that State government failed to provide proper review of environmental, social, and economical factors.

Data centers require massive amounts of water, used and returned to the water source with unexamined and unregulated amounts of temperature increases and potential pollutants. In this time of climate change with increasing danger of drought, it is ever more important to exercise extreme care to protect our finite water resources. This in itself is enough to cause grave concern over the harms posed by data center development.

Data centers are entirely new, complex and increasingly controversial. This is a land use that we have no zoning code for. I appreciate the Executive and Councilmembers want to put regulations in place to protect residents and resources from these highly consumptive uses. Regulations that take stakeholders into account and balance data centers with climate goals and resource protection will take some time to get right.

Please put a moratorium into place quickly to allow the time for this process like several other Maryland jurisdictions have done. It is seriously needed no matter what locations in Montgomery County may be affected.

Thank you for working to protect our County.