

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

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I urge Montgomery County to resist jumping on the data center band wagon without more data and information on the costs and benefits to county residents. How do we know if data centers are good for the county? ZTA 26-01 does nothing to better understand the water and power needs of this new use and does not protect residents from the impacts on the grid, at the tap and in the air. How else might the Dickerson site be used to the benefit of county residents? Is it sensible to convert as site which generated about a gigawatt of electricity to consuming that much at a time when regional generating capacity is diminishing and consumption by existing customers is increasing as we transition off fossil fuels? Might it be better to reserve this site for nuclear small modular reactors? Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us and make the best use of the Dickerson site in particular. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Dan Leggett