

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

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Councilmembers need to understand that allowing a new land use that will use a Gigawatt (705,000 homes) of energy and run a gigawatt of backup diesel generators. This will have a devastating impact on our environment. Hyperscale data centers, like the ones proposed in Dickerson, are simply not compatible with our values. Hosting AI infrastructure like this only benefits huge tech companies, and it is NOT a bargain our leaders should be making.

We need to introduce strict protections before considering ANY of these structures. Included in these protections should be:

Prioritizing Maryland water supplies for use by the people and the farmers of our state before allocating these precious resources to data centers. How can we push them to be more sustainable?? The technology exists!

Regulations to ensure the reliability of our electric grid is not adversely impacted by the demand created by data centers.

Regulations to ensure the average MoCo resident's utility bills, both power and water, are not escalating due to the increased demand created by data centers.

Minimizing both the air and water pollution emanating from these facilities (including the generating stations that power the data centers).

Please add this message to the hearing record.

Thank You,

Dana Heiser