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

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Diane Kupelian
Bethesda, MD

Data Centers have done enormous damage to communities in Virginia, and I have personally spoken with those residents. Their electricity costs have sky rocketed! Their water access is damaged! PLEASE do not rush into allowing data centers in Montgomery County!

At the community forum on data centers the other night I was struck that it seems like no one has done a cost-benefit analysis of whether the county will really reap any rewards from hosting data centers. All residents are left with are the stories from other cities where data centers have caused havoc with water, noise and more. The cluster of data centers in Dickerson got pre-approval without a site plan - we now know they have applied to use 2 Million gallons of the Potomac each day. Without hard numbers on both sides of the ledger, 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 and at the tap. Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Diane Kupelian