

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

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I am sending this because I am not sure our elected leaders understand that destroying our farmland and environment hurts all residents. Building these centers is short-sighted because, in the long run, it will drain resources and money to clean up the pollution they cause. So let's slow down on building monstrosities.

More and more concerning health risks have been linked to data centers, including a GMU study just released. The authors, one of which spoke at the ZTA public hearing, urge strong regulations to keep these impacts in check. Montgomery County needs to make sure we have these regulations in place before allowing 5 hyperscale data centers to draw up to 2 Million gallons from the Potomac per day. Please enact a moratorium as soon as possible and set about a transparent process to understand and regulate data centers here. The current ZTA 26-01 seems more concerned about fencing colors than protecting ratepayers and water drinkers by setting hard standards on water and energy use and emissions. We rely on you to protect us from over-consumptive industries - the ZTA must be stronger to do so. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Dorothy Herman