

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

February 26, 2026

Elizabeth Kapsch

Please slow down.

The Montgomery County Council and Planning Commission HAD to have an incinerator only to discover, as many predicted, we didn't have enough fuel to support it; it was a polluting waste of land and money. They had listened to the corporate reps whispering in their collective ear how wonderful, how lucrative it would be. And now you are precipitously looking for something to replace this decrepit, exceedingly costly boondoggle with what promises to be another.

Apparently you all are the recipients of the data center whisperers. Please don't be conned. Based on what is already known about data centers, the damage to the Potomac River, the destruction of the irreplaceable Ag Reserve, the harm to the entire County will be irreversible.

AI is in its early, primitive stages with much still unknown. Better understood is the negative impact of the related data centers.

You are the stewards of our entire County. We count on you to protect our land and our future.

Please take your role seriously with a dose of skepticism that this project, these data centers, will not turn out, like the incinerator, to be another giant con job.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Kapsch