

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

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George Williams
Rockville, Maryland

So the developer says he'll take his ball and go home.

They won't. This is all about the bottom line. They own the land, and they have to pay taxes on it whether they build on it or not. Postponing taxes for 20 years is INSANE. Dickerson is uniquely suited to this kind of development, relatively remote, parked on the transmission grid to take power with minor infrastructure cost to pass along. As such, they should pay taxes, now, in advance, monthly, and get liened / billed and sold on the courthouse steps if they fail and buy that lien and double their land cost. They should agree to all demands for transparent cooperative development and be denied permits until they do so. Green light GO is not in the public interest. They should answer every question, have reasonable plans for water management, build and maintain onsite reservoirs if necessary. Their returns are pretty much guaranteed as they sell their storage and AI to those that will resell services to we taxpayers at significant cost.

The affordability crisis is directly tied to data center capacity, our electric bills are already too high and the People's Counsel has said the proliferation of data centers is to blame. What is the rush to jump in? There is every reason to wait, particularly with a project with unknown impacts speeding toward approval with no regulations. Slow down - get this right. Some of the lack of transparency from the industry is by design. We rely on our leaders to not accept NDAs and "proprietary information" and get the facts before allowing a new land use here. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

George WILLIAMS