

Gillian ODoherty
Germantown, MD

The past two years have seen drought conditions across the region - causing stress on the local watersheds and crop producers and requiring livestock producers and the equine industry to take on additional costs. The water supply and sewerage systems in the area are aging, poorly maintained and crumbling. Wells have been closed and we have sewage flowing into the Potomac which is at historically low flows.

Under these conditions gifting such a large water abstraction right indefinitely to anyone irresponsible. Gifting it to a private company who is not part of the community and will not enhance the region is downright madness. It is also likely permanent once done. After spending 30 years living in the west, I know very well the problem with poorly thought and and hastily implemented water abstraction plans made without an eye to the future.

Montgomery County needs to make sure we have well research and well thought out regulations in place before allowing 5 hyperscale data centers to draw water from the Potomac. This is not a new problem, water law exists and water shortages exist throughout the USA. There is no evidence that Montgomery County is learning anything substantial from any of them before acting.

Please enact a moratorium as soon as possible and set about a transparent process to understand and regulate data centers here.

Sincerely,

Gillian O'Doherty