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Data centers are entirely new, complex and increasingly controversial. This is a land use that we have no zoning code for. I appreciate the Executive and Councilmembers want to put regulations in place to protect residents and resources from these highly consumptive uses. Regulations that take stakeholders into account and balance data centers with climate goals and resource protection will take some time to get right. Please put a moratorium into place quickly to allow the time for this process like several other Maryland jurisdictions have done.


 Specifically, this latest generation of AI data centers appear to be a completely fraudulent investment based on real estate speculation and server leasing business models for an industry with almost 0 natural demand that is already hemorrhaging hundreds of billions of dollars annually with no road map to profitability. Montgomery County will look extremely foolish if we provide tax incentives to a private firm for an AI data center and the AI investment bubble inevitably bursts in the next 1 to 2 years when we could have been proactive in attractive proven industries that can actually turn a profit and create more than a dozen odd jobs. The US tech sector has not had a viable product since cloud computing over 15 years ago. AI and AI data centers are just the next cryptocurrency, NFT, metaverse, etc.