

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

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Montgomery County should not allow haphazard growth of Data Centers. Comprehensive consideration of public costs, energy consumption, environmental impacts and impacts to quality of life is required to achieve results that are beneficial to Montgomery citizens. Unregulated development will inevitably result in projects that benefit out of state investors and produce significant detrimental financial, environmental and quality of life impacts for Montgomery residents.

Analysis of data center development in Montgomery County must focus on what County citizens may gain, or lose, from hosting these large, energy consumptive and noise polluting facilities. County residents are left with uncertainty around what, if any, real benefits will develop from the disruptions of construction activity, water consumption and potential water pollution, noise and more. The cluster of data centers in Dickerson was pre-approved without a site plan. This represents lax oversight and a clear lapse of the County Council's duty to Montgomery citizens.

A moratorium on data center development is required to develop comprehensive policies that make data centers work for Montgomery county. Anything less forces County residents to bear the costs of development that ultimately benefits non-resident investors.

Thank You,

James Logie