

3/1/2026

Dear County Executive Elrich and Council members,

As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to put our **community's health and resources first** by enacting an immediate moratorium on hyperscale data center approvals, including the massive 5-building complex proposed for Dickerson.

We all use the "cloud," but these facilities have a very real, very heavy physical footprint that our local infrastructure is not prepared to handle. We need to pause and get this right for the following reasons:

- **Protecting Our Drinking Water:** The Dickerson project alone proposes to draw **2 million gallons a day from the Potomac River**—the same river that provides 75% of our region's drinking water. With recent reports from the ICPRB warning of potential water shortages by 2030, we cannot hand over our most vital resource to "thirsty" data centers without strict guardrails.
- **Health and Air Quality:** A recent George Mason University study highlights the respiratory and cardiovascular risks associated with the massive diesel backup generators these centers use. The Dickerson site plans for **1.2 Gigawatts of diesel capacity**, which will be tested monthly, blowing exhaust into our air. Our children and seniors deserve better.
- **Rising Utility Costs:** Experience in neighboring counties shows that the massive power demands of hyperscale centers can drive up electricity rates for everyday residents. We should not be subsidizing Big Tech's energy bills with our own.
- **Transparency and Voice:** Currently, there is no specific regulatory framework for these "gigawatt-scale" projects. A moratorium—like those already in place in **Frederick, Prince George's, and Carroll Counties**—is the only way to ensure that *we*, the residents, have a seat at the table before permanent decisions are made.

Please support a moratorium and table ZTA 24-01 until a task force can fully analyze the impacts on our climate goals and community well-being.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet Awokoya