

Councilmember Marilyn Balcome,

At the community forum on data centers the other night I was struck that it seems like no one has done a cost-benefit analysis of whether the county will really reap any rewards from hosting data centers. All residents are left with are the stories from other cities where data centers have caused havoc with water, noise and more. The cluster of data centers in Dickerson got pre-approval without a site plan - we now know they have applied to use 2 Million gallons of the Potomac each day. Without hard numbers on both sides of the ledger, how do we know if data centers are good for the county? ZTA 26-01 does nothing to better understand the water and power needs of this new use and does not protect residents from the impacts on the grid and at the tap. Remember, ANY space you allocate for data centers removes the following:

- 1.) Land for farms to feed your communities
- 2.) Land for homes that have voters, tax payers and individuals for employment all of which increase the tax revenues greater than a data center
- 3.) Water for your voters, water for the communities and water for our farms

Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Jeffrey Thorne