

Jennifer Hearn  
Bethesda, MD

Please keep these heat-sink, electricity AI gluttons out of Montgomery Co, especially in the Ag reserve. I ride my bike past data centers in N. VA, and can hear the rumble and feel the heat coming off these massive buildings. 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.

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

February 26, 2026

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Bethesda, MD

I've cycled past data centers across N Virginia. They buzz and give off lots of excessive heat. They do not create jobs after their fast build. Data centers drain our resources, water, electrical generations. They do not belong in the agricultural reserve. Data centers are entirely new, complex and increasingly controversial. This is a land use that we have no zoning code for. This proposed ZTA is silent on the most impactful issues with data centers - namely the impact on our regional water and power supply. The scale of these projects is unlike anything else in the county and the zoning needs to acknowledge that. I've read the data centers will use the same energy as hundreds of thousands of houses and millions of gallons of the Potomac we can't afford to lose. 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 to craft zoning that takes the real issues into account. We need to pause like several other Maryland jurisdictions have done. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Jennifer Hearn