

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

February 26, 2026

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My first concern is maintaining the Agricultural Preserve. In approving the Data Centers the Council also needs to verify the adequacy of the Potomac River in providing for the freshwater needs of the affected metropolitan area when drought conditions are considered. My other concern is the effect of the Data Center energy requirements on our price of electricity [which is already very high].

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. Without hard numbers on both sides of the ledger, how do we know if data centers are good for the county? Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us.

Thank You,

John Byrne