

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

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I understand that Data Centers rely on backup Diesel generators that need to be tested monthly. If the Dickerson facility (which has said it will use them) consumes a gigawatt of energy it would need to test a gigawatt

+ of diesel generators monthly. This is a huge public health issue - and not just for the upcounty. The entire county is already breathing dirtier air as a result of Virginia's data centers. The ZTA you are considering would allow data centers and their generators on all industrial land which exists in every corner of the county in already underserved areas. There is so much we don't know about data centers, it is time for a pause while solid regulations are crafted that protect health, wallets, the Potomac and our climate goals. The current proposed ZTA is not taking these serious impacts into account.

The rush to data center facilitation is premature and puts at risk the unique characteristics of the Ag Reserve. As a long time resident of the reserve, I urge you to pause the development plans while the regulatory framework catches up.

thank you for your consideration,

John Fedota, PhD

Boyds Resident