

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

February 26, 2026

Joseph Baldi

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

It would be recklessly irresponsible to move forward with the creation of several new data centers without comprehensive planning that includes risk assessment and appropriate legislation and oversight. I strongly urge the County Government to implement a moratorium to ensure you are making the correct and best decisions for your residents.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Baldi

U.S. Public Health Service, Retired