

I am asking that the Council provide the necessary safeguards and protections around the establishment and use of data centers. We need a clear definition of data centers and restrictions on their use to protect the health of our citizens and the environment.

I support the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 26-01, Commercial Uses – Data Center and ask that it go further, if possible, to ensure data centers be subject to approval by the people and the entire process is transparent. Data center usage of energy and water restrictions need to be established and monitored, land should not be purchased on speculation, noise regulations should be in place and these centers should not be near schools.

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- A Gigawatt of power from the grid (750,000 homes)
- Up to 2 million gallons from the Potomac per day
- A 1.2-Gigawatt equivalent of dirty diesel generators

We know what happened in Northern Virginia and we can learn from that mistake. Data center usage of energy and water restrictions need to be established and monitored, land should not be purchased on speculation, noise regulations should be in place, and these centers should not be near schools.

I understand that lawyers for the developer Atmosphere testified that any pause in approving the ZTA they asked for will cause them to take their business elsewhere. Please DO NOT bend to this pressure. It is the Council's job to protect shared resources and public health. Regulating industry is not unfair - it's the job.

Thank you, Kendra Westervelt