

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

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I am writing regarding the proposed hyperscale complex of five data centers in Dickerson, which has received conceptual approval but will require major modification review before full approval is granted.

Publicly available information indicates that the project would require approximately one gigawatt of electricity from the grid—equivalent to the consumption of roughly 750,000 homes—up to two million gallons of water per day from the Potomac River, and 1.2 gigawatts of diesel-powered backup generation tested monthly. In a country already facing increasing strain on energy infrastructure, water supply, and climate commitments, allocating this magnitude of continuous resource use presents significant long-term risks.

We need a transparent and deliberative process to balance this new land use with the County's commitments to equity, environmental protection, and responsible growth. Neighboring jurisdictions have adopted temporary moratoriums to allow time to develop appropriate regulatory frameworks and assess infrastructure impacts. I believe a moratorium would provide the necessary time to conduct a comprehensive analysis of grid capacity, water sustainability, environmental impact, and fiscal implications. Given the scale and complexity of this proposal, a pause is the most responsible and transparent course of action.

I respectfully urge you to support a moratorium on new data center approvals while appropriate regulations are established.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You,

Kiersten Greenfield