

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

February 26, 2026

Linda Bergofsky
Poolesville, MD

I have already written to you with my concerns about data centers and the speed with which the County is moving to approve them – most notably in Dickerson – without sufficient information about their impacts. As a resident of Poolesville, I and my neighbors don't want to be the test for data centers as we were with the incinerator.

Things are still far too uncertain on data centers right now and so I feel I must write again. If you listened to the comments made at the Public Forum, you heard that residents in MoCo are solidly against data centers. Our State is just beginning a study of data centers. The affordability crisis is directly tied to data center capacity. The need for data centers to support large scale machine-learning seems to support the growing surveillance state. What is the rush to jump in and allow large scale data centers here? There is every reason to wait, particularly with a project with unknown impacts speeding toward approval with no regulations. Slow down - get this right. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Linda Bergofsky

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

March 3, 2026

Linda Bergofsky
Poolesville, Maryland

I've written you before regarding data centers, and I am writing again to reinforce this one central message: If data centers are "right" for Montgomery County now, they will be "right" for the county in 6-12 months. I ask you to wait for the results of a transparent public process that includes a full accounting of if, where, and how data centers can be sited to complement the county's goals - and the biggest question - who pays? Good leadership proceeds carefully and in collaboration. The idea I heard expressed is that we can just have these facilities move in and then tax them heavily. I would ask the citizens of Virginia how that way of thinking has served them. Instead, we need to prospectively calculate the health and energy costs that will be borne by regular residents, before harm is done. We don't owe this company a facility just because they applied. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Linda Bergofsky