

# Montgomery County Farm Bureau

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2/24/2026

The Honorable Natali Fani-Gonzalez, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD. 20855

Subject: Written Testimony on ZTA: 26-01, Commercial Uses- Data Center

Montgomery County Farm Bureau supports ZTA :26-01 with amendments.

We do not dispute the need for Data Centers and agree with the requirement that they be as a conditional use only allowed in industrial zones.

Our concern is the effect these sites could have on energy use, cost, availability and reliability. The other concern is water use and disposal. As we all are aware, WSSC is in dire need of upgrades. Many of our neighboring communities are now wrestling with these concerns after the sites are constructed.

The following is a combination of MCFB and MFB recommended policies for Data Centers.

We urge. study of potential electrical corporation costs associated with the installation of new transmission and distribution assets to serve new digital infrastructure.

We support:

- 1.The use of recycled water for cooling for any new proposed digital infrastructure, including data centers.
2. Transparency by local authorities in the siting of digital infrastructure.
3. Requiring data centers to supply their own power before tapping into the grid.
- 4.Study of how data center development will impact agricultural land, noise pollution, and the demand on existing power grid infrastructure.
5. Infrastructure must be in place before a data center is considered for development.

MCFB supports the limiting of data centers outside industrial zones.

Doug Lechliden

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Doug Lechliden'.

MCFB President