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These data centers will have negative impacts on communities and environments. They do not generate many jobs in the long run and they use massive amounts of water. Our area has been in chronic droughts for many of the past 5 years. These will make water resources scarce. Additionally, the power grid cannot handle these centers, and energy companies are already charging higher costs than many people can afford. Once the water resources are depleted, we cannot restore them and the average family cannot afford the increase in energy costs.

Less than 6 months ago, most average people didn't know what a data center was. While we are all catching up, more concerning health risks have been linked to data centers, including a GMU study just out this week. The authors urge strong regulations to keep these impacts in check. Montgomery County needs to make sure we have these regulations in place before allowing 5 hyperscale data centers to draw up to 2 Million gallons from the Potomac per day. Please enact a moratorium as soon as possible and set about a transparent process to understand and regulate data centers here.