

Dear Council Members,

I am writing as a Montgomery County resident to offer testimony on ZTA 26-01. I support the effort to thoughtfully regulate data center development in our industrial zones, and I urge the Council to strengthen the ZTA by requiring that any approved data center operate on 100% renewable energy. I request that these data centers not merely offset a portion of its usage, but commit fully to clean power given the enormous electricity demands these facilities place on the grid. Additionally, I ask the Council to consider placing a cap or annual limit on the number of data center conditional use approvals granted, so that cumulative impacts on our infrastructure, water supply, and communities can be assessed before development outpaces our ability to manage it. These two measures would ensure that if data centers come to Montgomery County, they do so responsibly and in a manner consistent with our Climate Action Plan.

Respectfully,

Rebekah Esmaili