

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

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As a resident of Dickerson and a former Trades person who worked on, maintained and designed data centers for various types of facilities I have deep concerns of the lack of information about the types of systems that will be used to run the Data Centers besides relying on backup Diesel generators that need to be tested monthly and maybe used 24/7 if necessary. It is true that the Dickerson location is Zoned Industrial, but I assure you the original industrial zoning was never intended to be on the scale of this project. If the Dickerson facility (which has said it will use them) consumes a gigawatt of energy it would need to test a gigawatt + of diesel generators monthly, how much fuel will it take to run the test and or run 24/7, what is the storage capacity needed for this and what will be done to contain a diesel spill, how many tanker trucks will use our current roads to make deliveries. This is a huge public health issue - and not just for the upcounty. The entire county is already breathing dirtier air as a result of Virginia's data centers. Has a study been completed to determine the effects to the agriculture from this proposed Data Center. The ZTA you are considering would allow data centers and their generators on all industrial land which exists in every corner of the county in already underserved areas. There is so much we don't know about data centers, it is time for a pause while solid regulations are crafted that protect health, wallets, the Potomac and our climate goals. The current proposed ZTA is not taking these serious impacts into account. What rules, codes and regulations are not being addressed at this time. We are currently under a Federal Administration that is not concerned about the environment, we only have to look at the recent sewage discharge in Montgomery County and the lack of response by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is my opinion and I hope the majority of the members of the County Council will vote to get more information so we are all in agreement that this project is not in the best interest of the people of Montgomery County. There are so many questions that need to be answered by the companies that are pushing to start this project before it can move forward.

Thank You,

Ronald Welch