

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

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Sharon Campbell
Silver Spring, Maryland

I agree that data centers are new, complex and increasingly controversial. This is an attack, really, on our limited resources (air, land, water) use that we have no proper zoning code for.

The proposed ZTA 26-01 is silent on the most impactful issues with data centers - namely the impact on our 1) regional water, 2) air quality, 3) use of the electrical grid power supply, 4) our health and 5) the fact that these data centers are not and cannot be "guaranteed" existence and relatively immediate approval.

The scale of these projects is unlike anything else in the county and the zoning needs to acknowledge that. The process must be slower to account for the incredibly out-sized use of all our resources. The citizenry should not be required to be responsible for yet more and more costly increases and possible reductions in the ability to have potable water available, breathable air and quiet neighborhoods in which to live, regardless of personal wealth.

Evidently, the data centers will use the same energy grid as hundreds of thousands of houses and millions of gallons of the Potomac citizens can't afford to lose. Regulations that take ALL stakeholders into account and balance data centers with climate goals and resource protection for CITIZENS FIRST will take some time to get right.

Please put a MORATORIUM into place quickly to allow the time to craft zoning that takes the real issues into account. We need to pause like several other Maryland jurisdictions have done.

Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Sharon Campbell