

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

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I am writing as a Montgomery County resident of many years. I have lived in Silver Spring, Kensington, City of Gaithersburg, and for the past 36 years, Montgomery Village. Right now, my neighbors are complaining about their high electric and water bills. We truly don't have a handle on the energy and water needs of large scale data centers and their impact on the energy and water needs of current residents and businesses. Clearly, the impact of data centers will be major with the need for millions of gallons of water from the Potomac River and an incomprehensible demand on our already strained electric grid.

The ZTA you are considering would allow data centers and their polluting diesel generators on all industrial land. I live near an industrial area which includes the County Airpark and is home to many small businesses which provide essential services to our communities. It is surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Furthermore, the area is already entirely built up. Where could such a facility be located?

Similarly, the Gude Drive industrial area in Rockville is home to the old Gude Drive landfill as well as numerous small businesses. Again, where could such a facility be located in an already built up area?

It is time for a moratorium on all data center applications and regulations until solid regulations are crafted that protect our health, our drinking water supply, our electric grid, and our climate goals. The current proposed ZTA is not taking these serious impacts into account.

Thank You,

Sharon Cranford