

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

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More and more concerning health risks have been linked to data centers, including a GMU study just released. The authors, one of which spoke at the ZTA public hearing, 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. The current ZTA 26-01 seems more concerned about fencing colors than protecting ratepayers and water drinkers by setting hard standards on water and energy use and emissions. We rely on you to protect us from over-consumptive industries - the ZTA must be stronger to do so.

You must tell Atmosphere that we can't be rushed into making such a commitment . If we pause to study this let them take their business elsewhere as they threatened. There are serious health concerns to be considered, not to mention the huge utility bills all your constituents have already been seeing from Potomac Edison and Pepco which would increase even more with a giant data center.

Please include all my comments in the public record.

Respectfully,

Stephanie R Egly