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

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I did not attend the community forum on data centers the other night, but it seems as though no one has done a cost-benefit analysis of whether the county will actually reap any rewards from hosting data centers. We already know or can intuit that they will drastically alter or destroy less developed land in the AG Reserve. As a long time resident of Montgomery County I consider forests and farmland infinitely more valuable than data centers. We can live without Data Centers but we can't live without farms and I don't want to live anyplace without forests.

'm also afraid of the impact of Data Center water usage, especially in a time of alternating droughts and torrential rains. As an avid gardener who tries to plant natives, moderate water usage, provide habitat and protect flora and fauna year round, the only places in my beloved county I can imagine data centers are in big box store parking lots.

I've also watched my electrical bills go up and up. If Data Centers are allowed, they should be taxed so that residents aren't left footing the bill. The same taxing requirements should be applied for their water usage, with guarantees that with shortages, the Data centers and not residents, are left to suffer the shortages.

All residents are left with are the stories from other cities where data centers have caused havoc with water, noise and more. The cluster of data centers in Dickerson got pre-approval without a site plan. Without hard numbers on both sides of the ledger, how do we know if data centers are good for the county? Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us.

Thank You,

Susie Eig