

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

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Looks like once again we may be off to the races without any indication of where the finish line is, let alone the course we are taking!!

At the community forum on data centers the other night I was struck that it seems like no one has done a cost-benefit analysis of whether the county will really reap any rewards from hosting data centers. 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 - we now know they have applied to use 2 million gallons of the Potomac each day. Without hard numbers on both sides of the ledger, how do we know if data centers are good for the county?

While some construction jobs are created, these are temporary and will not necessarily go to residents of the county. Operating a data center only takes a handful of people, no long-term employment opportunity. Is this addressing the unemployment issue caused by mass government layoffs and cut backs in Federal spending? Data centers use lots of electricity and water. This guarantees BIG environmental impacts. Look at the carbon emissions from generating that electricity. I bet it will greatly exceed what you think you are saving from banning my gas-powered leaf blower. Was an environmental impact study performed? I am scratching my head to see what county tax revenue is created from a data center. We need a much stronger corporate tax base in this county; I don't think data centers fill the gap. Again, show us the study.

Take a moratorium to get some answers and build strong policies that make data centers work for all of us. Please include my comments in the hearing record.

Thank You,

Thomas Moschella