

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

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I understand that Data Centers rely on backup Diesel generators that need to be tested monthly. If the Dickerson facility (which has said it will use them) consumes a gigawatt of energy it would need to test a gigawatt of diesel generators monthly. This is a huge public health issue - and not just for the upcounty. The ZTA you are considering would allow data centers and their generators on all industrial land which exists in every corner of the county in already underserved areas. There is so much we don't know about data centers, it is time for a pause while solid regulations are crafted that protect health, wallets, the Potomac and our climate goals. The current proposed ZTA is not taking these serious impacts into account.

What's most concerning is the Potomac River has been in the red zone for a historical severe drought for a year. How will the data centers use of water impact the already compromised Potomac River levels? Not to mention... the historical sewage spill leeching into the Potomac River. Doesn't sound like a win for anyone at this point.

Thank You,

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