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The public forum on data centers last week showed there is a lot of community interest, and a lot of questions that need to be answered in regulation for data centers. When our neighbors, Prince George's and Frederick Counties, began their data center regulation journey, they sensibly created a 6 month moratorium on permitting of data centers to give them time to develop the appropriate regulations.

Montgomery County should be just as responsible to its citizens and have a 6 month moratorium on data center permitting. This shows respect for the transparent process to develop these regulations and that our citizens are the priority.

Less than 6 months ago, most average people didn't know what a data center was. While we are all catching up, more concerning health risks have been linked to data centers, including a GMU study just out this week. The authors 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 water from the Potomac. Please enact a moratorium as soon as possible and set about a transparent process to understand and regulate data centers here.