

**James, Karen**

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**From:** Elizabeth Law <bettybob1758@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 9:46 AM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Cc:** County Executive; Venable, Victoria; McKay, Steve; Donald, Jerry; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Carter, Mason; Knapp, Renee  
**Subject:** Energy Auction Shows data center influence and PJM shortcomings  
**Attachments:** pjm-at-a-glance (Map) (1).pdf  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Chair Tim Davis, Vice- Chair Mark Long and Commissioners, and all,

FYI:

The following article in Maryland Matters is very informative. For your convenience I am also attaching a brief explanation of the PJM system.

Sincerely,  
Betty Law, P.E.

From <https://marylandmatters.org/2025/07/28/pjm-auction-shortcomings-maryland-advocates-data-centers/>

# Advocates: Energy auction shows data center influence, grid operator's deficits

BY: [CHRISTINE CONDON](#) - JULY 28, 2025 7:20 AM

Last week's energy auction by multistate power grid operator PJM will cause most Marylanders' monthly electric bills to go up [\\$2 to \\$5 next summer](#) — but that's on top of other costs, for transmission, fuel and more, that one advocate calls “death by a thousand cuts.”

It's also the latest evidence, say ratepayer advocates and policymakers, that policies of PJM, the grid operator in a 13-state region that includes Maryland, are out of whack.

The latest of the “thousand cuts” is mostly the result of energy-guzzling data centers, David Lapp, the Maryland People's Counsel, who is charged with representing state ratepayers. Predictions for their proliferation are largely behind inflated projections of

energy demand in PJM states, pushing demand past supply in the auction process, sending the price skyward.

And ultimately, consumers pay the price.

“It’s fundamentally unfair,” Lapp said. “Why should residential customers be responsible for costs being driven by some of the biggest and wealthiest corporations in the world?”

At the same time, consumer advocates say PJM policies have restricted supply, with a [backlogged queue](#) for energy projects, many of them renewable energy proposals.

“Until there’s actual queue reform, there’s not going to be real relief,” said Emily Scarr, a senior adviser for Maryland PIRG, or Public Interest Research Group.

All eyes were on this year’s auction because last year’s was a blockbuster: The clearing price jumped 800% compared to the 2023 auction, setting a record for the most expensive such auction in PJM history.

This year’s auction surpassed that record, but it was offset by policies that consumer advocates — and some governors — pushed PJM to adopt.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) was [behind a new cap](#) on the auction’s clearing price. The auction hit the cap, saving consumers about \$2.9 billion in total costs on their bills. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) [supported](#) Shapiro’s appeal.

As various parts of energy bills increase, grid decision-makers don’t seem to be asking a key question, says Laurel Peltier, a low-income ratepayer advocate for the AARP: “Can people afford this?”

During a news conference Tuesday, Stu Bresler, a PJM executive vice president of market services and strategy, said that auction costs are a “small part of retail bills, and it also varies” how auction costs translate into rate changes for consumers.

But Peltier said that ignores key context.

“That’s like being in a bakery, and you know that the flour got more expensive, the butter got more expensive, the labor got more expensive, and you’re the egg maker, and your eggs are 800% more, and you’re like, ‘It’s OK. It’s just a little part,’” Peltier said.

When it comes to bill increases from the capacity auction, BGE customers are the exception. The segment of their bills tied to the auction will actually [go down](#) an estimated \$3.36 per month, according to Office of People’s Counsel calculations.



But that's really only because their rates soared so high after last year's capacity auction at PJM.

PJM forced a Baltimore-area coal-fired plant, Brandon Shores, and oil-burning plant, H.A. Wagner, to keep running beyond their announced closure dates. But PJM's rules kept that power out of the 2024 auction, suppressing expected supply at a time of surging demand.

This time, after urging from Lapp's office and others, the rules were changed so that power from the two older plants was counted. And BGE customers will actually receive a credit for any revenue that the plants' owner, Talen Energy, receives from the auction, Lapp said, lowering their bills, contrary to initial predictions from PJM.

But their monthly electric bills will still be up \$16 from two auctions ago.

Changes inside PJM?

In a July 16 [letter to PJM](#), a bipartisan group of nine governors in PJM's 13-state territory — including Moore and Shapiro — said the moment presents an opportunity for change.

With the “abrupt termination of two long-standing members of the Board of Managers and the imminent departure of the CEO,” their replacements must “understand the concerns of ratepayers facing rising costs,” and create “a more collaborative and more effective ethos” at PJM, the governors wrote.

It's fundamentally unfair. Why should residential customers be responsible for costs being driven by some of the biggest and wealthiest corporations in the world?

*— David Lapp, Maryland Office of People's Counsel*

“In the past, other regions looked to join PJM due to its many strengths; today, across the region, discussions of leaving PJM are becoming increasingly common,” read their letter.

In a July 18 [response](#), PJM Board of Managers Chairman David Mills pushed back.

“Our operators are keeping the lights on through some of the most challenging circumstances that any grid operator, anywhere, has faced in its history,” he wrote. “We also continue the necessary function of operating regional markets as well as planning for a grid that is seeing an explosion of demand growth at the same time that state and

federal policies have pushed a meaningful amount of generation capacity into retirement.”

He listed a number of changes PJM has made to its auction “to address concerns raised by our states,” including the “temporary” cap.

In a statement announcing the auction results Tuesday, PJM wrote that it “continues to focus on enhancing its process for connecting new generation resources onto the system, which includes clearing all the projects in its transition queue over the next 18 months, opening its new cycle process in spring 2026, and leveraging artificial intelligence through our partnership with Google to reduce processing time.”

Regime change may help, but some advocates warn that more transformative change may be necessary to lower prices. That includes changing how the organization is governed, Lapp said.

“We and the 13 other state consumer advocate offices in PJM — we get one vote. There are transmission-owning utilities that have more votes than us together,” Lapp said. “It’s the transmission owners that wield the most influence at PJM.”

Those same companies generally lose out when more power generation comes online, Scarr said.

“The legacy power plants lose out when that happens — but they’re the ones managing the ship,” Scarr said.

In a statement Thursday, Moore spokesman Carter Elliott IV wrote that Moore is “demanding reform and a meaningful voice for states in PJM governance, which is why a bipartisan group of governors’ staff met with PJM members” on Wednesday, including Moore’s staff.

A spokesman for PJM pointed to a [fact sheet](#) describing the grid operator’s governance structure, which highlights that PJM’s 10-member Board of Managers must not be financially tied to any PJM member. But on the member’s committee, which includes about 1,000 members, votes are divided between five industry sectors. State consumer advocates are the other voting members.

Data center debacle

When she hears ominous predictions for data center demand on the PJM grid, Del. Lorig Charkoudian (D-Montgomery) is skeptical.



The massive computing facilities have a sprawling footprint in Northern Virginia that has quickly inflated power demand in that region. But it remains an open question how widespread they will become, she said.

“You have the data centers that are sort of playing the field. There’s a real question right now about: **Are we overcounting data center load?** If the same data center is checking out five different locations, how are we sure?” said Charkoudian, who closely studies energy issues and is frequently behind energy legislation in the General Assembly.

It’s part of the reason she was dismayed to see [Moore veto](#) two bills that would have studied energy issues, citing their cost. One bill created a Strategic Energy Planning Office in Maryland, focused on predicting future energy issues without relying on PJM and utility companies; the second studied data centers specifically.

“Right now we’re continually caught flat-footed,” said Charkoudian, who added that she supports veto overrides for those bills.

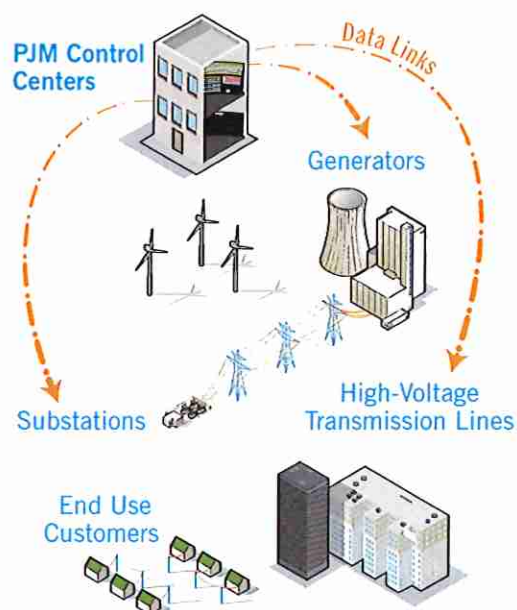
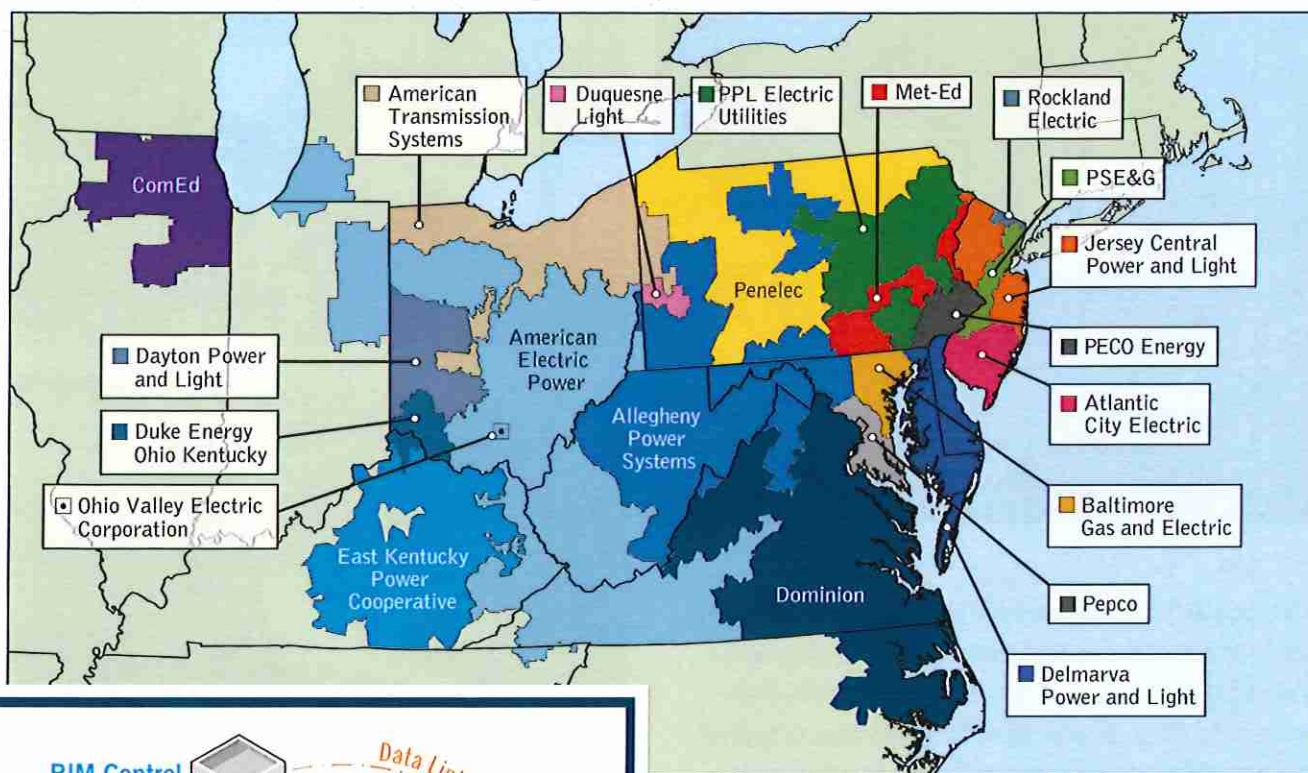
Lapp said he also worries that data center projections are overblown because technology could be advancing to increase power efficiency at the facilities, which are full of computer servers that require immense amounts of energy to run and to keep from overheating.

That’s a major reason why data centers themselves should be footing the bill for their own power demand, and the upgrades to the power system they may require, Lapp said.

“If the data centers aren’t responsible for paying for all the costs that they are driving, they have much less incentive to find more computer chips, to operate more efficiently, to reduce their own costs,” he said.

It’s PJM’s job to change the paradigm, wherein ratepayers pay for enhancing the electric system, he said.

“It’s an unprecedented period of time in the industry, when you have city-sized demand being built up in just a few years,” Lapp said. “You can’t treat that the same as load growth gradually occurring over time.”



## Keeping the Lights On

We're sometimes called air traffic controllers of the power grid. PJM monitors and coordinates more than 1,379 electric generators and over 84,236 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Just like air traffic controllers, we don't own the equipment we direct. Others own the power lines and power plants.

Power generators, utilities and power marketers coordinate their operations through PJM. Doing so makes major electric outages less likely to occur and reduces power costs.

## PJM – At a Glance

PJM Interconnection coordinates the movement of electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. We work quietly behind the scenes. Our job is to ensure there is enough electricity for the 65 million people in our region.

Key Statistics	PJM Today
Millions of people served	65
Miles of transmission lines	84,236
Generation capacity in MW	180,086
Square miles of territory	369,089
Area served	13 states + D.C.





## High Technology

Our operations are based on skilled knowledge workers and banks of powerful computers. Expert staff constantly monitor the grid at PJM's high-tech data, communication and control centers. As usage of electricity shifts up and down throughout the day, PJM balances supply and demand by telling power producers how much energy to supply.

Our engineers and information technology experts study hundreds of "what if" scenarios. They prepare to deal with virtually any event – from extreme weather conditions, emergencies and equipment failures, to the more easily anticipated cycles of days, weeks and seasons.

## Power Markets

PJM administers competitive wholesale markets for large blocks of electricity – similar to the way the stock market works. Our markets are internet based. Utilities and other electricity suppliers use them to make short-term purchases of power for their customers. Our markets attract renewable power sources, such as wind, to the region.

We administer demand response programs. Demand response allows customers to be paid for reducing their electricity usage during system emergencies or periods of higher power prices.



## Planning

Managing the future needs of the electric system is an integral part of PJM Interconnection's role as a regional transmission organization. PJM conducts a long-range Regional Transmission Expansion Planning process that identifies what changes and additions to the grid are needed to ensure reliability and the successful operation of the wholesale markets. PJM's open and extensive review process ensures that all interested parties, including state regulatory agencies, have an active role in planning for future electricity supply and reliability needs.

## A Long History

Founded in 1927, PJM Interconnection is an independent, federally regulated organization headquartered near Valley Forge, Pa.



Visit our learning center at [learn.pjm.com](http://learn.pjm.com)



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**James, Karen**

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**From:** DIANE & BRUD BICKNELL <bicknell0104@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 9:09 AM  
**To:** Donald, Jerry; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; McKay, Steve; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Knapp, Renee; Planning Commission; County Executive  
**Subject:** Why Should People Move to Frederick County?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



Fertile farmland and mountains in the distance, THIS is why people move to Frederick County.

When we bought our home a year ago, we were thrilled to get out of Prince William County, VA (a county being destroyed by data center growth ... check out the information in this link: <https://protectpwc.org/2024/02/28/buckle-up-prince-william-county-more-transmission-lines/>) to a county that values farmland enough to place the beautiful cornfield in our backyard under Priority Preservation. Well, apparently this view and this land is getting kicked out of the preservation club and isn't worth saving these days.

Now this expanse of land is within the new CDI boundary, and, per the approval of the Planning Committee and the County Council, it could eventually become the home of massive data centers and industrial growth.

Please do in depth research about the damage data centers are doing to the small towns within Prince William County, especially regarding the amount of electricity these centers take from the community and the destructive actions they have to take to support the centers, and save Frederick



from a similar fate by limiting the data centers to the original Eastalco site. Having seen what has happened to PWC, if there was an option for me to recommend refusing to allow data centers into the county at all, I would be asking for that.

You have created a wonderful community full of great services (best park system we've ever experienced, curbside recycling, schools that don't have a teacher shortage, speedy snow plowing, community events ...). Isn't providing a great quality of life for all of your Frederick County residents your ultimate goal? If so, you've reached that goal. If you face any monetary shortcoming it's not evident to me, so why, if you're allowing the destruction of this beautiful land for the money, do you want to open the door for more data centers with the expanded industrial boundary of the CDI?

Please save the beauty of Frederick and the reason why people come and stay.

Diane Bicknell  
5905 Char Leigh Circle

**James, Karen**

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**From:** PHM <phmichael@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 12:51 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** Economic Damages from Overlay Proposal

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

In 2001, Duke Energy proposed to construct a very large 350-megawatt power plant within the southern Frederick County Priority Preservation Area where several applicants today want a wide swath of the area reclassified from agricultural to industrial zoning in order to construct data centers beyond the confines of the Eastalco site. Duke's proposal met with widespread opposition within Frederick County and in State government resulting in Duke's defeat. The Priority Preservation Area was kept intact, as it remains today.

In addition to very vocal resident and official opposition, our firm's economic damages analysis used by the governor and cabinet also played a defining role in keeping Duke out of Frederick County. The analysis showed that allowing the power plant would have caused 15 kinds of quantifiable economic damages totaling in 2002 dollars \$107,091,912 and an estimated \$125,000,000 considering unquantifiable damages. In 2025 dollars, these amounts come to \$204,642,790 and \$238,863,301, respectively. The damage figures are *before* accounting for the economic multiplier.

**The current economic threats posed by permitting enormous industrial disamenities such as data centers to be built in a pristine area are very similar to the Duke case.** In fact, some properties around Adamstown have already suffered property value losses because of weak set-back requirements for the large buildings being constructed on the south end of the Eastalco property. From the intersection of Ballenger Creek Pike and Mountville Road, the viewshed from there to Adamstown and north on Ballenger Creek Pike is already ruined. Any home within that viewshed is now worth considerably less than it was a year ago. Counties lose class-action lawsuits after unnecessary zoning changes lead to such damages.

This all said, there are simpler, more obvious reasons for the Planning Commission to firmly deny the requested overlay zone.

- Frederick County doesn't need data centers in the first place.
- Data centers would replace rural beauty with industrial ugliness.
- There is no need to expand an overlay zone beyond the existing area zoned for growth.
- Redrawing the boundaries of the Rural Legacy Area and/or the Priority Preservation Area would flout settled public policy passed to protect rural areas and confine sprawl elsewhere.

The property owners and residents of the southern Frederick County Priority Preservation Area and Rural Legacy Area urge the Planning Commission to leave these areas untouched by forbidding any overlay.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Michael, President  
Michael Strategic Analysis

2455 Ballenger Creek Pike



Adamstown, Maryland 21710

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**James, Karen**

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**From:** DIANE & BRUD BICKNELL <bicknell0104@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 9:55 AM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** CORRECTION - Re: CDI Limitation Request - Why 1%?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Commissioners,

As we are new to Frederick and the whole data center conversation, I misspoke in my previous email, using the term the "Quantum property". My husband, and I believe our daughters, wrote separate emails and misidentified the area as well. We are researching and learning more about this every day, and now know that we should have asked that the **data center development be contained to just the Eastalco area that was originally slated for data center use.**

I'm not sure anyone on the commission even read our first emails, but, just in case, I wanted to make that very important correction.

We left Prince William County in part because of how the area changed due to data center growth; it's only gotten worse in the year since we moved. I stand opposed to data centers because of the damage they do to small towns and the people who live there. Residents bear the burden (and cost) of providing these resource-grabbing centers with the gluttony of electricity/water they consume. They replace green spaces with giant concrete boxes. They lead to bigger power lines and more/larger electricity substations (some located far from the actual data center buildings), and even the consideration to use toxic gas to create power when the electric grid can't keep up.  
(<https://protectpwc.org/2025/07/06/ever-heard-of-a-gas-insulated-substation-get-ready-for-vint-hill-substation-upgrade/>)

**Please reconsider your hugely expanded overlay. Limit the number of centers approved by confining them to just the Eastalco area.** Keep Frederick County from becoming another Prince William County.

Thank you,  
Diane Bicknell

On 07/19/2025 8:17 AM EDT DIANE & BRUD BICKNELL <bicknell0104@comcast.net> wrote:

Today you have the power to define the priorities of Frederick County. Are we still the bucolic agricultural community that has, for years, set aside farm land as **priority preservation** areas, honoring a rich agricultural heritage? Or are we the next Prince William County (VA) which, only a few years ago, opened its doors to data centers that have now forever blemished the landscape, thumbed their 75' concrete noses at concerned county residents, dangerously depleted resources, and drastically/negatively altered the feel of the county's small towns?



The Planning Commission has the power NOW to protect Frederick County with a vote to limit the scope of data center invasion to the currently approved Quantum property.

**Frederick County is under no obligation to sacrifice a whopping 1% of its land to these 75' resource-grabbing monstrosities. NO OBLIGATION!**

A re-commitment to the limited site can still be a win/win situation. The data centers win by gaining a *huge* complex to do business. The county wins with the added revenue generated by the new use of previously scarred, unused Quantum land.

I implore you to put a hold on data center expansion as you review the CDI. Let's live with the currently approved Quantum site for at least five years to see what the cost/reward is for our county and its residents.

Thank you for hearing my plea.  
Diane Bicknell

**James, Karen**

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**From:** Kathy Kinsey <kmkinsey@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Cc:** Karen Cannon  
**Subject:** CDI Overlay Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Map Amendments

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Planning Commission:

In follow-up to the July 23rd meeting of the Planning Commission, Mobilize Frederick writes to express its support for the Planning Commission's recommendation to solicit additional input on the proposed CDI Overlay Zone options from the Maryland Department of Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the Office of People's Counsel. Given their respective areas of environmental and energy expertise, these agencies are well-positioned to provide valuable input that can inform the Planning Commission's recommendations on the proposed overlay zone.

In addition, during that meeting, questions were raised about the revenue impacts of data center development on the Quantum Loophole campus. In that regard, we call your attention to two separate economic impact analyses that were presented to the Data Center Workgroup – the MuniCap and Sage Policy Group analyses. In case of interest, we are providing the links to each analysis below:

<https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/349297/MuniCap---Data-Center-Presentation-121223> (MuniCap) and <https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/348972/Sage-MDTC-Data-Center-Impact-Report> (Sage Policy Group).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Cannon,  
Executive Director  
Mobilize Frederick

Kathy Kinsey  
Chair, Government Affairs Committee  
Mobilize Frederick



**James, Karen**

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**From:** Laxton, Vivian  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Cc:** Murray, Patrick; Venable, Victoria  
**Subject:** FW: Conditions for Data Center Expansion in Adamstown, Frederick County

The writer of the email below requests that this message be submitted as part of the Planning Commission's record regarding the CDI overlay.

~Vivian

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**From:** GMAIL <melange1728@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 9:35 AM  
**To:** venable@frederickcountymd.gov; Laxton, Vivian <VLaxton@FrederickCountyMD.gov>  
**Cc:** Terri KD Schumann <melange1728@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Conditions for Data Center Expansion in Adamstown, Frederick County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To those in Frederick County Government:

My name is Teresa Schumann. I am a property owner in Historic Adamstown, Frederick County, residing at 5627 Mountville Road. I am a lawyer, a writer, a life coach and a citizen directly impacted by data centers in Adamstown. Further, I understand that the Frederick County Planning Commission will send its recommendations on data center expansion to the state within 60 days. I formally request that my remarks be made part of the record supporting such review.

### **Don't Loudoun Our Adamstown**

No one wants data centers in their community, especially not in a historically significant community like Adamstown, a place where prior to 1700, the Susquehannock, Nanticoke, and Piscataway tribes sojourned here, enjoying its serenity. Early settlers included Robert Palmer, an African American who ran a general store, and postmaster Adam Kohlenburg, for whom "Adamstown" was named. The town doctor built my house in 1902 and filled my red barn with his spirited horses, ready for emergent house calls. From this fledgling start, Adamstown grew into a patchwork quilt of differing clusters: Historic Adamstown is flanked by Greenhill Manor, Adamstown Commons and the Enclave at Carrollton Manor. Now, we are neighbors and friends united in concern that data center development happen scrupulously and impeccably, or not at all.

The recent data center overlay map drew dire comparisons with Loudoun County where data centers proliferated like spotted lantern flies, marring and scarring adjacent communities like Ashburn, with its soulless Data Center Alley. For Frederick County to approve additional data centers in Adamstown, it must do much better than Loudoun County. If done correctly, the data centers in Adamstown could become a **gold standard** for data centers done right and residents treated fairly. Achieving gold standard status is predicated upon meeting three essential conditions: **Mitigation, Incentivization and Compensation.**

### **Mitigation: Generous Setbacks, Higher Earth Berms**

First, the County must insist on the highest level of mitigation to reduce the impact of data centers on Adamstown quality of life. The overlay map proposes that data centers could be located closely adjacent to several Adamstown neighborhoods and Carroll Manor Elementary School. In order to be approved, we insist that additional data centers must be set back more than 500 feet from all affected communities and the school, and ten foot earth berms must be required, with sizeable trees and mature bushes planted to screen data centers and reduce noise and light. Data centers must be held to the highest standards of mitigation, not simply bare minimums.

### **Incentivization: Give Back to Adamstown**

Second, data centers must contribute meaningfully to Adamstown by making the community better *because of* the data centers. In community meetings, Adamstown residents have suggested several desired community incentives such as a Community Park with walking and bike trails; a Community Center with a Pool and a Makers' Space; and a Community Solar Cooperative--funded and built by the data centers on their land--which would deliver cheaper electricity earmarked for Adamstown residents. Data centers must fund these community improvements as incentives to Adamstown.

### **Compensation: Taxes For Taxes.**

Mitigation and Incentivization are nothing without Compensation: Frederick County must compensate Adamstown homeowners for immolating their property values by significantly reducing their property taxes as a quid pro quo for intentionally lodging all data centers in Adamstown.

Frederick County has courted data centers to increase commercial tax revenues, while promising the rest of the County that data centers will *only* be located in Adamstown. Adamstown residents are thus forced to shoulder the data center burden alone, while resulting tax revenues benefit the entire county. This disproportionate impact on Adamstown and the resulting sharp decline in Adamstown property values is a **regulatory taking** that must be compensated. The County can easily create a special taxing district and significantly reduce or even eliminate property taxes, or offer a sizeable Data Center Proximity Tax Credit for affected homeowners.

Compensation is particularly warranted due to the County's willful and egregious disregard of the impact of locating all data centers in Adamstown, turning it into the *de facto* "Data Center Alley" of Frederick County. Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland, with many sites that could work for data centers, but the County chose to burden Adamstown with all of them in one spot. This disproportionate impact coupled with the County's specific intent to sacrifice Adamstown *in order to spare* the rest of the County is the most glaring wrong that demands redress. Lodging all data centers in Adamstown rather than judiciously sprinkling them across the county exacerbates the harm to Adamstown property values and absolutely compels compensation.

Eminent domain law analogously supports compensation: Maryland and Frederick County eminent domain statutes forbid taking private property for public use without "just compensation." Here, the County ransoms Adamstown to data center expansion--a "taking"--to increase tax revenues that will benefit the whole County--a "public use"--without compensating those in Adamstown whose properties become dramatically devalued. Although data center expansion may not formally fit within eminent domain laws, the intentional disproportionate impact on Adamstown residents alone is clearly a **regulatory taking**. Tellingly, County Executive Jessica Fitzwater has gone out of her way to assure citizens that all future data centers will only be located in Adamstown, placating them while throwing us under the bus.

**This is evidence of the County's willful and intentional action: This is a deliberate "taking" of Adamstown that cries out for compensation.**

Property tax relief as compensation is awarded in other land use contexts. For example, when counties place landfills near residential areas, they often negotiate "**host community agreements**" which include **annual payments** to residents and **property tax offsets or rebates**. Similarly, many municipalities across the nation have



paid residents compensation for airport noise, high-voltage utility corridors (wind farms and pipelines) and industrial nuisance zones. Here, locating all the data centers together in Adamstown is just like digging a giant landfill: Property values plummet. Property tax offsets must unquestionably be offered as recompense.

For all these reasons, Adamstown residents demand compensation from the County in the form of significant property tax reductions or credits. This is a small price for the County to pay compared to the treasure trove of tax revenues it will glean from data centers for decades to come. **Taxes for taxes** is the cost of doing business, nothing less.

### **Conclusion: Do The Right Thing**

Adamstown residents would prefer no more data centers, but the devil is in the details: What is fair and equitable, how can we all do the right thing? *We are not opposing progress—we're merely asking for fundamental fairness* from the County.

Now, Frederick County can demonstrate how to do data center expansion right. If Frederick County requires exemplary mitigation, if data centers contribute generous incentives, and if the County compensates residents in the form of significant property tax reductions, Frederick County will become the gold standard for data center development. But the right thing *must* include property tax relief: The County must pay residents for its decision to create a data center hub here.

**Instead of being a political minefield, this could be a political opportunity.** It's up to you.

We ask you as our public officials and elected representatives to stand in our Adamstown shoes and consider our Adamstown needs. We are counting on you. We believe in you. And we will remember how you handled this when elections roll around again.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terri /s/*

Teresa Schumann

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