

James, Karen

From: susanj <addsusan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2025 8:44 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Oppose Bill 25-09

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Councilpeople:

I oppose the CDI Bill as currently written. The Bill needs more guardrails like the ones proposed by Mobilize Frederick, Envision Frederick and the hundreds of citizens that have spoken against the current version of the Bill. We are all watching and we are all voting next year.

Regards,
Susan Jiacinto
Frederick

James, Karen

From: Nick Carrera <mjcarrera@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2025 9:31 PM
To: Council Members; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Another media discussion of data center problems

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

A neighbor sent me this. I don't know the TV station or the reporter, but it echoes assertions I've seen elsewhere. The low-utilization rate, 12 to 18%, is a figure I also saw recently in an article from Forbes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NROBfjXr_Bo

Nick Carrera

James, Karen

From: Frank <frankcrystal1@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: CDI-OZ
Attachments: FCC-FPC Letter 08.2025 - Long Version 2.docx

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To whom it may concern
Please review attachment

Thank you
Franklin Hernandez

Sent from my iPhone

Mr. Brad Young, President *and*
Members of the Frederick County Council
Winchester Hall
12 E. Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
countycouncil@frederickcountymd.gov

Members of the Frederick County Planning Commission
PlanningCommission@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Dear Frederick County Council and Planning Commission:

I'm writing in support of the proposed Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone (CDI-OZ) as proposed by the County Executive's planning staff in July, 2025. As stated in the introduction of the CDI-OZ presented by staff;

"On May 6, 2025, Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and the County Council announced that data center development will be limited to the area around the Eastalco property north of Adamstown. In addition to defining the geography of this use, the County Executive and County Council specified that the land area for data centers will be limited to less than 1% of the County's total land mass."

While it is always difficult to reach complete consensus on matters having to do with future development and land use issues, the proposed CDI-OZ represents a reasonable balance between the need for significant economic development opportunities in the County and the long-term preservation of farmland in support of

The Eastalco area has the infrastructure attributes necessary to support data center development and is strategically located in close proximity to the world's most important data center hub in Northern Virginia. This represents an important opportunity for both the County and State of Maryland to bolster and diversify the region's economic base and generate significant revenues to benefit County services for our residents.

Affordable housing in Frederick County is of great importance. Residential property assessments in the County are increasing at a rapid rate (as much as 30% over 3 years), substantially outpacing the Homestead Property tax Program exemptions, resulting in annual 5% increases in homeowner taxes. The increased tax revenue provided by Data centers and the related service providers and businesses will help relieve the stress of unsustainable home property tax increases.

Much as the County and State have planned for the future of agricultural preservation by establishing easements on approximately 90,000 acres of farmland so far, with a goal of 160,000 acres, the County likewise should be identifying the areas now that are appropriate for data center development in the foreseeable future. The CDI-OZ as proposed, encompassing only 2,566 acres, is the appropriate way forward to strike the balance between economic developments on the one hand and agricultural preservation on the other.

Data center growth in Frederick County will provide long term benefits to the residents of Frederick County and the State of Maryland. Frederick County should not miss this opportunity.

I urge you to approve the Overlay Zone (CDI-OZ) as proposed by the County Executive's planning staff in July 2025.

Best regards,

Franklin Hernandez
5607 Woodville Road
Mt. Airy MD, 21771

James, Karen

From: Kim Ames <nunrig68@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 12:59 PM
To: Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: countyexecutive@frederickcountymd.gov; Planning Commission; Kim Ames; Chris Ames
Subject: data center overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good afternoon. We live at 5871 Union Ridge Drive, Adamstown and are voicing our vehement opposition to the overlay for the proposed data center!

We moved to Adamstown in 2015 from Germantown because we wanted to live out in the country with less construction, congestion and with wide open fields. Frederick, and in particular Adamstown, was the perfect location as it offered us all of the above plus the benefit of being 10-15 minutes from downtown Fredrick & stores.

It is beyond frustrating, upsetting & disturbing to realize you may take all this from us! Our concern is not only for the aesthetic beauty that surrounds us but for the financial impact this most likely will have on our largest asset - our home. There is no doubt that the construction of a data center so close to our neighborhood will negatively affect the value of our homes.

In addition to the financial impact on our asset, we will have to deal with an increase in noise pollution, traffic, and have to drive past once beautiful farm lands now ugly data centers. Not only does this affect our neighborhood but the data centers will negatively impact the elementary school- CMES. Our children should not have to play in the shadow of the data center. Our concerns are also for the impact that the additional electricity output generated by the data center will have on our community. We already have electricity issues in our neighborhood. Also, what impact will the noise generated from the data center have on the elementary school, nearby daycares, homes, domestic animals and wildlife.

It all comes down to **why** most importantly do you intend to build additional data centers without even seeing whether the original data center will be a viable and positive choice for the Fredrick community, and most importantly for Adamstown.

Why are you putting all the impact of this 1% plan on our neighborhood!!. **Why** can you not distribute the impact of data centers throughout Fredrick county.

Sadly, you must all know that in less than 5 years quantum computing will make data centers outdated if not obsolete. This will leave us with ugly empty buildings.

We are so upset to know that all you want is the immediate monetary output from this data center without thinking of what this does long term to the Fredrick community. Most importantly we, the Adamstown homeowners, are **your constituents** and our welfare should be **paramount and above the interests of outsiders** like the Data center.

We are known for our beautiful farm lands. People want to move here for the quiet and large open spaces and not for industrial zoned lands!

So, please, we are imploring you not to add this additional overlay to our neighborhood! Any mitigations offered by the Data center should be denied. No 500-foot setback will remove the noise, pollution and impact on our neighborhoods.

In conclusion to support our above concerns we request the following amendments to the Ordinance overlay:

1. No data centers next to homes!

The County Council must return to the County Executive's original protection as presented at the First Reading on January 7, 2025. See Siting Requirements to Apply to Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities, line 24 through 26, page 3., or similar language:

(d) The track of land where the Critical Digital Infrastructure use is proposed may not abut land that is zoned residential or is designated residential on the Comprehensive Plan Use map.

Therefore, first, the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) should be amended.

- 1- to remove the setbacks, and
- 2- return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.

2. Honor the commitment to protecting preservation areas.

An amendment is needed to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas for any such designated lands as of 17 June 2025.

Thank you. We truly hope you listen and consider our arguments as we will be directly impacted by the outcome of your decisions!

Sincerely,

Kim & Chris Ames residents of Green Hill Manor, Adamstown

James, Karen

From: msimpson2005 bennettscreekfarm.com <msimpson2005@bennettscreekfarm.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 2:02 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Vote on CDI Overlay Bill & Amendments this week

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I live near the town of Urbana on Thurston Road across from Sugarloaf Mountain. I am writing today to let you know that I support the amendments proposed by McKay and Donald to the CDI Overlay Zone, Bill 25-09.

It is important to protect the area in and around Sugarloaf Mountain. Locating a Data Center close to Sugarloaf Mountain will have nearly the same effect as locating it at the Mountain. This is because Sugarloaf Mountain acts as a barrier to noise dissolution. Living here, I can tell you that many times I hear a noise twice: once when it occurs and once when it bounces off the mountain and comes back. It can be difficult to pinpoint the origin of the noise because of this.

The town of Urbana has over 14,000 residents currently. If a data center is located between I-270 and Sugarloaf Mountain, the noise from the data center will most likely reverberate back and forth. It will not dissipate normally. Thus, not only will those of us living off Thurston Road be affected by this noise, but so will every one of those 14,000 residents in Urbana.

This means that this area needs the protection of the Council even more than other areas. Please do not allow "by right" data centers to be created within the overlay zone. Please do not allow data centers close to residential areas at all.

I think that we also need an amendment that will protect land designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), a Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or a Treasured Landscape Management Area as of June 17, 2025. This includes the Sugarloaf Mountain area and this should be preserved. Land within an Overlay Zone should not be subjected to changes once designated. Otherwise, what is the purpose of an Overlay Zone?

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Regards, Margy Simpson 2149 Thurston Road, Frederick MD 21704 301-520-7113

James, Karen

From: Dave Arndt <roseca2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Frederick County City Council Members,

Data Centers are not good neighbors! They are loud, cause surface level vibrations and cause speculative land grabs. Also, they will emit pollution from their diesel generators when they run for routine maintenance. Furthermore, what would happen if the power goes out and these generators have to run for 24 plus hours in a row? That would be light putting an interstate hwy right next to a house.

Don't sacrifice your residents for the promise of a few extra dollars. Protect them and alter this bill.

Thanks for reading my message,

Dave Arndt
roseca2010@gmail.com
240-328-7383
Co-Chair MLC Climate Justice Wing

James, Karen

From: James Coulombe <duetto14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 2:47 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; McKay, Steve; Donald, Jerry; Knapp, Renee; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason
Cc: Constituent Services; Planning Commission
Subject: Critical Digital Infrastructure overlay zone bill 25-09 and map

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

With regard to the upcoming consideration of the Critical Digital Infrastructure overlay zone bill 25-09 I would like to point out an overlooked aspect to hyper scale data center operations that has so far been completely ignored in Frederick County government's considerations. Specifically that is the resultant air pollution and public health burden from operations of these massive data centers.

In a recent manuscript, researchers from UC Riverside and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) used EPA-developed modeling tools to estimate the public health consequences of data center operations in Northern Virginia (Han, Wu, Li, Wierman and Ren "the Unpaid Toll: Quantifying the Public Health Impact of AI" arXiv, 2024).

The authors note that an example AI model training exercise produced air pollutants equivalent to 10,000 round trips by car between Los Angeles and New York City. Pollutants from the diesel exhaust of data center back up generators include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and small carbon particulates that can penetrate deep into lungs with serious health consequence, contributing to lung cancer, asthma, heart attacks, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and cognitive decline particularly in infants, children, the elderly, and other vulnerable individuals.

While these air pollutants are most concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the data centers, they also disperse hundreds of miles throughout the surrounding region. Back up generators operating in northern Virginia in 2023 at their maximum permitted levels would be expected to result in public health costs in excess of \$2 billion in the surrounding regions. Estimating health costs of these operations at 10% of permitted levels still results in \$220-300 million for the neighboring region.

This estimate includes \$3.9 to \$5.2 million in increased public health costs for Frederick County. Note: this is an estimate of the public health damage from data centers located across the Potomac river. Although one might quibble about the accuracy of these estimates, locating hyper scale data center operations with hundreds of massive diesel generators within Frederick County will clearly have a significant impact on public health and the suffering of susceptible individual residents.

Although the state of Maryland has decided to forgo any effective regulation of the emissions from data centers and controlling emissions has not been the responsibility of Frederick County government. Nonetheless, providing for thousands more acres of data center development will most certainly make you responsible for increased air pollution and the resulting deleterious consequences for Frederick County residents.

Unfortunately, both the County and State government officials have so far chosen to be purposely ignorant of the negative costs of data center development while embracing the potential tax revenues. Increased public health costs are just one more of the unexamined consequences that should be carefully considered before passage of 25-09 or any other regulations expanding data center development in Frederick County.

There is no way of judging whether the benefits are worth the additional health costs without an unbiased assessment of costs and benefits before allowing expansion of data center development. Willful ignorance is not good governance.

Respectfully,

James N. Coulombe, Ph.D.
2770 Lynn Street
Frederick, MD 21704

James, Karen

From: Dedra Salitrik <dedrasalitrik@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 4:40 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive
Subject: data center concerns

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please consider maintaining the safety of humans and wildlife when voting whether to allow data centers to be built in Frederick County. Many of us purchased property here in order to live in an environment that is protected from overdevelopment, from air and water pollution, and that provides open green spaces for the health and habitat of the occupants. I'm writing to ask that you vote not to allow data centers or their transmission lines within a mile of residences and green spaces, that you vote to preserve and add green spaces for human and wildlife needs and protection, and that you vote against allowing any data center development to be greater than 20 acres total in size-or in the case of the current Eastalco area-the same size as the old energy plant.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests when you vote on these issues on August 19,
Dedra Salitrik

August 17, 2025

Dear Council Members of Frederick County Government,

I have been living in the Green Hill Manor development in Adamstown since 2001. This letter is being emailed to you to voice my concern over the data centers being constructed in this area.

I was fine with the original plans using the contaminated East Alco property but am now very concerned with the expansion of these data centers. I do not see any regulations of these plans, only efforts to change restrictions to make it easier for more data centers to be built. Most importantly, these structures should not be allowed close to residential and school areas. They really should be north and west of the railroad tracks to give the residents, churches and Carroll Manor Elementary school buffer from the impact of these structures. Preservation land should be protected as well.

Based on what I have been researching, there has not been any impact studies being conducted. The use of water to cool this data system is concerning. If there is a drought, which occurs often in this area, are they going to have to adhere to water restrictions like us residents? The only other option to cool this data center is air, and then it becomes extremely noisy.

What about the use of energy? These buildings need massive amounts of energy to run efficiently. Right now, it seems they do not even have a plan to power the centers currently under construction on the East Alco property. Now they want to expand. It makes no sense to me. If they need so much power, why not put solar panels on all the building roofs and have a battery backup system too. That way maybe data centers would not need to run the diesel generators as often!

The community here in Adamstown is not getting the answers to alleviate their concerns. I feel we are being dismissed. Residents here work very hard for their homes and community and are concerned about their quality of life. The welfare of your constituents should be your priority.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Sheila and Steve Jones

5639 Denfield Place, Adamstown, MD 21710

James, Karen

From: Sheila Jones <sheila_rose@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 4:46 PM
To: Young, Brad; Council Members; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Data Center Concerns
Attachments: Data Center Letter.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

James, Karen

From: DIANE & BRUD BICKNELL <bicknell0104@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 4:48 PM
To: Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Amend CDI Overlay - Limit it to former Eastalco Aluminum Plant North

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear County Council,

Please don't let data centers ruin Frederick like county officials have done in Prince William County, VA! You have the opportunity NOW to limit the damage these horrible high-rise box-like structures with their pollutive diesel generators and concrete-for-miles will do. You can temper the explosion of costly, environmentally unfriendly electricity substations/cross-county transmission lines and the resulting rising electricity costs for area residents. Frederick is known for its commitment to agriculture; you can support our farmland.

Protect Frederick by amending the proposed CDI Overlay to **restrict the approved data centers growth area to the current Eastalco Growth Area, remove CDI boundaries that are next to residential neighborhoods, and protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas** for any such designated lands as of 17 June 2025.

You just need to look at what's happening in Prince William County, VA to get a glimpse of the troublesome future awaiting Frederick if you pass the huge CDI Overlay zone as proposed by the county executive. When we left PWC a year ago, we thought we had moved to an area that valued a bucolic lifestyle (**Homegrown Frederick Mission Statement:** Frederick County has been harvesting revenues in agriculture longer than any other industry. Today, there are over 1,300 farms and 188,576 acres of farmland. Homegrown Frederick serves farmers and citizens by promoting local agriculture and business in order to preserve the rich heritage of our County.). If selling a huge allotment of farmland for concrete, power/water hoarding data centers doesn't contradict that mission statement, I don't know what does.

Let's substantially reduce the CDI Overlay to start small with the Eastalco boundary and see how it goes.

Diane Bicknell
5905 Char Leigh Circle
Frederick

James, Karen

From: Adamstown Resident <residentadamstown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 4:57 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Cc: elysewilsonhkh@gmail.com; Steveblack2313@gmail.com; rollbackfarmer@comcast.net; brian@calico-nw.com
Subject: Medical Professional Opposition to the Overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the current proposed overlay. The public has expressed many concerns that I also share, such as effects on water, potential adverse effects on property values, and loss of our agricultural heritage. However, as a healthcare provider, one of the biggest concerns I have is the apparent disregard for public health and well-being, specifically as it relates to air and noise pollution.

Data centers often utilize diesel generators as backup power sources, which emit substances such as particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides. These substances are associated with respiratory issues, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. The Guardian's analysis shows these emissions may be 662% higher than initially reported, potentially exponentially increasing the risk of adverse health outcomes (O'Brien, 2024). This is consistent with a recent 2024 study which found that the pollutants associated the AI lifecycle could contribute to an annual public health burden of more than \$20 billion per year by 2030 and that "data centers could contribute to, among others, approximately 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths" (Han et al., 2024).

The effects of pollution extend beyond just air pollution, but also include light pollution and noise pollution. Large cooling systems and generators produce low-frequency noise, which can also contribute to sleep disturbances, hypertension, stress, and, perhaps most notably with the proposed location, adverse cognitive and behavioral outcomes in children (Araújo Alves et al., 2020; Raess et al., 2022).

Other municipalities, including Washington State, require a health impact assessment before data center construction (Data Centers - Washington State Department of Ecology, n.d.). To my knowledge, Frederick County, specifically you as a council, has not mandated this nor conducted any detailed analysis when considering the expansion of the overlay, which allows it within 500 feet of residences and an elementary school.

Adamstown is a little over 1 square mile, or 678 acres, and represents a tiny fraction of Frederick County's 424,283 acres. While the current proposal seeks to limit data center development to less than 1% of the county's total land area, up to 4,200 acres, I must question why a community that represents .16% of the county must bear the burden, including the health risks, of nearly this entire defined maximum. This burden appears inequitable at best, with no positive outcome to the residents of the community.

As public officials, you have a mandate to act on behalf of the entire community equitably in a manner that does not impact the health and well-being of residents. The current proposed overlay contradicts this mandate, and I respectfully ask that you reconsider the expansion in the Adamstown community.

Sincerely,

Christina Brockett

References:

Araújo Alves, J., Neto Paiva, F., Torres Silva, L., & Remoaldo, P. (2020). Low-Frequency Noise and Its Main Effects on Human Health—A Review of the Literature between 2016 and 2019. *Applied Sciences*, 10(15), Article 15. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app10155205>

Data centers—Washington State Department of Ecology. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2025, from <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/air-quality/data-centers>

Han, Y., Wu, Z., Li, P., Wierman, A., & Ren, S. (2024). *The Unpaid Toll: Quantifying the Public Health Impact of AI* (arXiv:2412.06288). arXiv. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.06288>

O'Brien, I. (2024, September 15). Data center emissions probably 662% higher than big tech claims. Can it keep up the ruse? *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/sep/15/data-center-gas-emissions-tech>

Raess, M., Valeria Maria Brentani, A., Flückiger, B., Ledebur de Antas de Campos, B., Fink, G., & Röösli, M. (2022). Association between community noise and children's cognitive and behavioral development: A prospective cohort study. *Environment International*, 158, 106961. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2021.106961>

Christina Brockett, MS, CNS, LDN

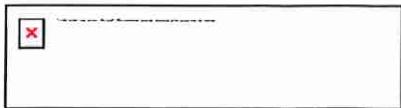
Integrative Clinical Nutritionist

15 North Court St, Suite 204, Frederick, MD 21701

Office: 301.874.2957

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www.eiwellness.com



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Christina Brockett, MS, CNS, LDN

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James, Karen

From: Blanca Poteat <bcpoteat@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Legislation

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Councilmembers,

On August 19, please **amend the proposed Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone legislation (Bill 25-09):**

- Eliminate the current "by right" allowance for data center development on industrially zoned properties that meet general LI or GI criteria.
- Remove the proposed setbacks from residential areas and reinstate the prohibition of data centers abutting residential properties.
- Honor the county's commitment to protect preserved and critical agricultural, forest, and open space areas, including Priority Preservation Areas (PPA), Rural Legacy Areas (RLA), and Treasured Landscape Management Areas designated as of June 17, 2025, from both CDI facilities and substations.

These and other essential amendments will require another hearing and will:

- 1) Give you time to reconsider the long-term consequences of these land use decisions, made in the rush of short-term concerns (federal turmoil! budget gaps! legal challenges! governor pressure!) and short-term data center promotions (jobs! tax revenues! advanced technologies!),
- 2) Require an objective and un-biased cost/benefit analysis of the data center industry in Frederick County before allowing (or worse, expediting) more data center development (the recent "data center study," announced by the Maryland Tech Council prior to its "data center summit," like the earlier Sage report, promotes only unsubstantiated "benefits"), and
- 3) Give concerned and impacted members of the communities you represent a further opportunity to speak up about the serious impacts of your data center decisions on their property values, electricity costs and invasive infrastructure, water supplies and quality, air pollution and quality, viewsheds, noise and light pollution, climate change, and overall quality of life.

Thank you in advance for your approval of these amendments.

Blanca Poteat
Thurston MD

James, Karen

From: Jaik <jaikjet13@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 7:11 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Urgent amendments for data centers!!! Please read

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello county council members,

Please vote for the people of Frederick county! We do not want these data centers here!!

Please I urge you for the following amendments:

- ⚠ No data centers next to homes. Restore the prohibition of abutting residential areas - don't replace it with a simple 500' setback.
- ⚠ Don't open 4,000 acres. Limit to Eastcalco area until impacts are better understood.
- ⚠ Honor preservation areas.

Our futures are in your hands....

A Frederick resident of 28 years,

James Thompson

James, Karen

From: dlleland@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 7:17 PM
To: Donald, Jerry
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Frederick Data Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mr. Donald,

I am a resident and voter in Frederick County. The CDI Siting Ordinance (25-05) looks like it was written by the data center industry the privileges are many and the protections for residents so few. The follow-up CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09) as currently written is a land grab for speculators. The way the bill reads now, it makes you think that the Overlay won't sit over these lands designated for preservation - but it's misleading, because if the Planning Commission and then the Council agree to remove those lands from these preservation areas, then the Overlay would be fine there. An amendment protecting the currently designated Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas needs to pass so that this can't happen.

Regards,
Dennis Leland

James, Karen

From: Blanca Poteat <bcpoteat@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 7:49 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Comments on Bill 25-09 and Data Center Costs and Benefits
Attachments: 1-9-24 cost-benefit Qs re Sage report.docx

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Date: August 15, 2025
To: County Council
From: Steve Poteat, Sugarloaf Mtn Rd, Thurston, Frederick County
Subject: Bill 29-09, CDI, and Data Center Cost Benefits

Gold at the end of the rainbow...

Congratulations County Council, you have found what every local government has looked for ... economic development with no costs...data centers!

The Sage report (2023) says that Quantum Frederick will provide \$40 million a year in taxes but NO mention of costs of public services, that's quite a deal.

BUT wait a minute...

- Sage also says that over 6,000 new jobs will be generated in Frederick County by Quantum; IBEW says there will be hundreds, maybe thousands more, but who knows for sure.
- Presumably these 6000 new jobs will create new families, perhaps resulting in 15,000 new people in the County. These folks will need public services and probably over 2000 new students in the County schools.
- But this new “no cost” paradigm says this will have no costs, zero, nada, what a deal!
- Some say these new residents and neighbors will cost upwards of \$70 million a year in public services. (see attached analysis)
- Simple math shows that Quantum Frederick will cost Frederick County \$30 million a year--not a profit but a deficit--unless you adopt a sensible business property tax like all our neighbor counties and 19 major jurisdictions in the State of Maryland.
- Then you could actually cut taxes—what a great political platform!

I urge the County Council and the County Executive and even the Governor to undertake a legitimate cost/benefit analysis of data centers so we know the actual costs and benefits not just economic puffery.

NEWSFLASH: JUST ARRIVED at 3 pm this afternoon, a new Sage analysis of data centers in Maryland. Dave Arndt of the Maryland Legislative Coalition says this about the new report: “This is a regurgitation of a SAGE report on data centers that was done about 4 years ago. It is very deceptive, cherry picks data, does not list where much of their data comes from, uses false narratives, how much data centers receive in subsidies, etc. Plus, it doesn’t address ratepayer impacts, water usage, GHG emission goal, new transmission/distribution lines and substations, etc.”

The more you look, the worse it looks!

1-9-24

Public costs and revenues on Quantum Loophole Build-Out

Based on "The Economic and Fiscal Impact of a Data Center Development in Frederick County," October 2023, prepared by Sage Policy Group

The Sage report estimates the County and State revenues from the buildout of the Quantum Loophole complex of 16 million square feet of data centers. (Page 4.) At build out the project will create 8,000 jobs in the State (6,300 jobs in Frederick County.) on a continuing basis. (Page 7.) and \$41 million in revenues per year for Frederick County. Page 10.

THE SAGE REPORT MAKES NO EFFORT TO PROJECT THE PUBLIC COSTS TO FREDERICK COUNTY FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES NEEDED BY THOSE 6,300 JOBS. THOSE 6,300 JOBS WILL CREATE A DEMAND FOR \$71 MILLION IN SERVICES. QUANTUM LOOPHOLE WILL ONLY PRODUCE \$41 MILLION IN REVENUE. THIS LEAVES A DEFICIT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY TO FUND OF \$30.5 MILLION ANNUALLY.

Assumptions

1. County population: 267,500

Total County employment: 140,670

Average County household size: 2.7 persons

One job = one household

2. County government operating budget FY24: \$892,000,000 – transfer to FCPS \$400,000,000 = \$492,000,000

Cost of County services: \$492,000,000/267,500=\$1,839 per person

3. FCPS FY2024 operating budget: \$910,000,000 including transfer from County Students in FCPS: 45,220

Education costs per student: \$910,000,000 divided by 45,220 students equals \$20,124 per student

4. New students generated per job: 45,220 students divided by 140,670 jobs equals 0.32 students

5. Quantum Loophole buildout continuing jobs: 6,300 x 0.32 (students per job) equals 2,000 new students

6. Cost of new students: 2,000 x \$20,124 (per student costs) = \$40.3 million

7. New residents: 6,300 jobs x 2.7 (household size) = 17,000 new residents

County services costs for new residents: 17,000 x \$1,839 = \$31.3 million

8. Total County and FCPS costs for 6,300 continuing jobs at Quantum Loophole buildout: \$40.3 million plus \$32.1 million equals \$71.5 million ANNUALLY

9. Quantum Loophole revenue annually: \$41million

10. Annual County deficit resulting from Quantum Loophole jobs:

\$71.5 million minus \$41million equals \$30.5 ANNUAL DEFICIT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY

Sources

1. The Economic and Fiscal Impact of a Data Center Development in Frederick County, Sage Policy Group, October 2023

2. Frederick County MD operating budget FY 2024

3. FCPS operating budget FY 2024

Steve Poteat

From: Adamstown Resident <residentadamstown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 8:01 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay Data Centers Amendments needed

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

We desire for the Council to pass the proposed amendments to the CDI Overlay ordinance.

Following are the two changes we are asking for:

No data centers next to homes!

The County Council must return to the County Executive's original protection as presented at the First Reading on January 7, 2025. This can be found in the "Siting Requirements to Apply to Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities," lines 24-26, page 3, or in similar language:

"(d) The tract of land where the Critical Digital Infrastructure use is proposed may not abut land that is zoned residential or is designated residential on the Comprehensive Plan Use map."

Therefore, we ask that the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) be amended:

1. to remove the setbacks, and
2. to return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.

Honor the commitment to protecting preservation areas.

The way the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) is currently written is misleading. It looks like the Overlay will not sit over lands designated for preservation. However, if the Planning Commission and then the Council agree to remove those lands from their preservation areas, the Overlay could then change these protected lands to an industrial zone for data centers.

We ask that you stress that an amendment is needed to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Area. This protection should apply to all such designated lands as of June 17, 2025. This means that these lands cannot be redesignated out of these preservation categories for the purpose of placing the Overlay there. If this amendment passes, the land currently designated for preservation will be protected, and the residents and farmers who live and work adjacent to the threatened land will be assured that their lives will not be turned upside down by data center sprawl. We need everyone and their neighbors to write to the County Council, Planning Commission, and County Executive.

I live in Green Hill Manor in Adamstown, Maryland. I live close to Carroll Manor Elementary School and the Creative Memories DayCare Center on Adamstown Road. The school and daycare are immediately south of where you plan to put the data centers.

- Why should the financial windfall of a few land speculators be more important to the council members than the welfare of their constituents?
- The proposed CDI Zoning Map could be amended by any County Council in the future. What protection is there to ensure a future map will not abut the village of Adamstown? Only

returning the language to restrict data centers from abutting residential areas will relieve our anxiety and provide lasting protection.

- A 500-foot setback is especially outrageous given that the council members voted to remove protection for the public from noise, vibration, or pollution contained in an earlier data center bill. It removed complaint-driven action, testing at the time of construction completion and prior to operation, changed reporting by the industry from twice a year to every two years, and did not provide enforcement or fines for non-compliance with stated noise and vibration limits. The level of pollution from diesel generator testing is not measured or reported periodically.

I had a meeting with Debbie Butler, who lives on the corner of Ballenger Creek and Capstone Road, right next to the data centers. The data center currently uses a 53-foot box trailer with diesel generators to fill up the transformers. They ran it for three nights until 11 p.m. every night. It shook her windows and even shook her bed. They called the Sheriff about the noise. The Sheriff confirmed it was at 70 decibels in the middle of the night. The Sheriff could only tell the security guards at the data centers about it. Nothing changed in the sound. The data center then offered to put them in a hotel. Since they have pregnant cows on their farm, this option was not viable. The case number for the noise violation that the Sheriff gave them is **25-048088**.

You need proof. Look up the police report. You have been lied to at times by the industry and are believing everything they have to say because they give you money. You can correct this by making sure a third party handles checking that they meet all the guidelines.

Based on this incident, a child would have no way of being able to hear a teacher at 70 decibels, the level at which the data center violated the noise ordinance near the Butlers. The noise lasted for three days, and the sound never lowered; it only stopped after the three days it took to fill up the transformers. This is proof that you cannot trust the data center to police themselves.

If it were you, you would have lost sleep for days. What if you had young children in your home? It would not just disturb them, but it would also frighten them severely.

Per the comprehensive assessment attached, an elementary school must be a minimum of 1,500 feet from a data center.

In addition, last month on Mountville Road, Hope Kanod's water started turning brown. She had it tested, and it was contaminated. This indicates that the data center is not following the guidelines to prevent poisonous dirt from getting into our water. As you know, the EPA was called a few times about this.

It is obvious that the data centers' self-regulation is not working! The data center has already shown failure regarding noise and water. There is proof of the noise violation at the Sheriff's Office.

I have been a resident of Adamstown for over 20 years. These data centers are going to dramatically decrease the value of my home, just as they did in Loudoun County, Virginia, where residents lost almost all the value of their homes and are now begging the data centers to buy them. Is that the legacy you are looking for? My life's investment in my property and that of my family's should be honored by restricting Critical Digital Infrastructure from any Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas for any such designated lands as of June 17, 2025.

I chose to live in Frederick County because of its rural character. An amendment is needed so that any lands currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Area cannot be redesignated out of these preservation

categories. The Comprehensive Plan action currently underway is a land speculator's grab, as it removes hundreds of acres of preserved land from protection.

I am a resident and a voter in Frederick County. The CDI Siting Ordinance (25-05) looks like it was written by the data center industry; the privileges are many, and the protections for residents are so few. The follow-up CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09), as currently written, is a land grab for speculators. The way the bill reads now, it makes you think that the Overlay won't sit over these lands designated for preservation—but it's misleading because if the Planning Commission and then the Council agree to remove those lands from these preservation areas, then the Overlay would be fine there. An amendment protecting the currently designated Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas needs to pass so that this can't happen.

In addition, I spoke to a person who works for a "Big Data Center" because he did not know who I was, and he said they hired him to do public relations. He said he manages the algorithms and convinces people to directly message him so he can get paid to convince them at \$2,500 each. I have proof of this message in writing. His name is Eric Beasley. So, where there is one Eric Beasley, there are many more lying to you, saying, "Diesel Generators are not a roaring generator noise or waves of pollution." That is what he said to me, but I am educated and researched and know better and told him that I knew he was lying.

Research the data center issues across the United States. Do your own research, not just what the industry tells you. They have an agenda, which is to convince you.

Regarding Loudoun County, Virginia: In Loudoun County, the Briarfield Estates neighborhood has been specifically identified in news reports as a community facing pressure from surrounding data center development. Some residents on Hiddenwood Lane, which is near the Briarfield Estates, have expressed a desire to sell their properties to developers due to the encroaching industrial development. Another specific example is a neighborhood in Ashburn where a Reddit user claimed every household was offered millions of dollars to sell so a new data center could be built. These situations highlight a growing trend where residential areas, particularly those in "Data Center Alley," are being encroached upon by industrial-scale developments. The noise from generators and cooling fans, along with the visual impact of large, blank-walled buildings, has led some residents to feel that their quality of life has deteriorated to the point where selling to the very industry causing the problems becomes their only viable option. Feel free to research this, it's all factual.

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So when you vote, think about the people, the voters, the residents of Adamstown, the farmers, and the children. **Last school year, 561 children went to Carroll Manor Elementary School.** Are you going to trust data center owners around them, or a third party that does not have an alternative agenda to pass themselves? Restaurants have a health department for a reason; pharmaceuticals have to go to the FDA. Why are you putting our children at risk?

Please consider these matters when you vote today.

Sincerely

Ken Stephens

From: Elyse Wilson <elysewilsonkhk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 8:10 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Critical Data Center Overlay Amendments, Read before August 19th Meeting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

We desire for the Council to pass the proposed amendments to the CDI Overlay ordinance.

Following are the two changes we are asking for:

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In addition, I spoke to a person who works for a "Big Data Center" because he did not know who I was, and he said they hired him to do public relations. He said he manages the algorithms and convinces people to directly message him so he can get paid to convince them at \$2,500 each. I have proof of this message in writing. His name is Eric Beasley. So, where there is one Eric Beasley, there are many more lying to you, saying, "Diesel Generators are not a roaring generator noise or waves of pollution." That is what he said to me, but I am educated and researched and know better and told him that I knew he was lying.

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So when you vote, think about the people, the voters, the residents of Adamstown, the farmers, and the children. **Last school year, 561 children went to Carroll Manor Elementary School.** Are you going to trust data center owners around them, or a third party that does not have an alternative agenda to pass themselves? Restaurants have a health department for a reason; pharmaceuticals have to go to the FDA. Why are you putting our children at risk?

Please consider these matters when you vote today.

Sincerely

Elyse Wilson



James, Karen

From: K and E Stephens <kandestephens@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 8:23 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Urgent Amendments Needed for Data Center Ordinances

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Members of the County Council,

We are writing to you today as concerned residents and voters of Frederick County to urge you to pass critical amendments to the CDI Overlay ordinance. As you prepare to vote on this matter, we ask you to consider the welfare of your constituents, farmers, and children over the financial interests of land speculators.

We believe two fundamental changes are necessary to protect our community.

1. Protect Our Homes from Data Center Encroachment

The current proposed language of the CDI Overlay ordinance (25-09) is a misleading and insufficient protection. We ask that the Council return to the original language proposed by the County Executive on January 7, 2025, which stated:

"(d) The tract of land where the Critical Digital Infrastructure use is proposed may not abut land that is zoned residential or is designated residential on the Comprehensive Plan Use map."

We are requesting that you amend the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) to **remove setbacks and instead reinstate the absolute restriction that data centers cannot abut residential areas.** This is the only way to provide true, lasting protection for the homes and families in our community.

2. Honor Commitments to Protecting Preservation Areas

The current CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09) is a land grab for speculators. It gives the illusion of protecting preserved lands, but it contains a loophole. If the Planning Commission and Council agree to remove lands from preservation areas, the Overlay would then allow data centers to be built on them.

An amendment is desperately needed to permanently protect all lands currently designated as a **Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Area** as of June 17, 2025. This would prevent these lands from being redesignated for the sole purpose of data center development. Passing this amendment is the only way to ensure our rural character is not sacrificed to data center sprawl.

Documented Failures of Self-Regulation

The industry's claim that it can police itself is a lie. We have documented proof of their failures:

- **Noise Violation:** A data center diesel generator ran for three consecutive nights, producing 70 decibels of noise, which shook a resident's home. The Sheriff's Office confirmed this violation (Case Number 25-048088), yet the noise continued for three days. The family, with pregnant cows on their farm, was offered a hotel, a clear admission of the severe impact. This incident proves that a 70-decibel noise level is unacceptable and would make it impossible for children at Carroll Manor Elementary School to learn.
- **Water Contamination:** A resident on Mountville Road found their well water contaminated, prompting multiple calls to the EPA. This is direct evidence that the data center is not following guidelines to prevent pollutants from entering our water supply.
- **Lies and Misinformation:** An administrator publicly lied on TV, claiming no residents were on the phone with Frederick Planning when many of us were. Furthermore, at a recent Council meeting, only residents were asked for their address, not workers, many of whom are from out of state (West Virginia and Virginia) and are not contributing to Frederick County's economy. The industry also employs PR specialists, like Eric Beasley, to spread misinformation and influence public opinion.

We believe that trusting a third-party, with no financial ties to the developers, to monitor compliance is the only way to ensure our health and safety.

The Legacy of Loudoun County, Virginia

Please do not allow Frederick County to become the next Loudoun County, Virginia. Residents there lost much of their property value and are now begging data centers to buy them out. We chose to live here for the rural character, and our homes are our life's investments.

Think of the **561 children at Carroll Manor Elementary** and the residents who will lose their quality of life. We believe the future of Frederick County is in your hands.

Please consider these matters when you vote on August 19th.

Sincerely,

Elyse Wilson

James, Karen

From: NJ Warren <nancyjane2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 9:08 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Zone Ordnance

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Members of the County Council,

I live and work in Frederick County. I am contacting you because I am deeply concerned about the current steps being taken to allow data centers to be built in Frederick. I have not spoken to a single person who lives in our community who is in favor of this development. Keep in mind that only about a third of the people I have talked about this with even know it's happening. That is probably the thing that bothers me the most. I know how it works. You publish your agendas on your labyrinthine website, and then it takes hours of detective work for the average person to figure out what is going on. The community needs to be informed **EFFECTIVELY** of the many negative outcomes of building data centers here. And you, the County Council, need to protect the interests of all of the people who live here and who voted for you. It seems like you are bending over backward to accommodate private companies who want to run data centers, and you are not concerned about the extremely adverse environmental impacts from data centers. Take a look at other communities where data centers have been built. Their water resources have been destroyed. Data centers create enormous strain on the electrical grid that we simply cannot absorb--or they build their own power plants that create air pollution. Data centers also create noise, vibrations, and light pollution that disrupt the neighboring residents' quiet enjoyment of their property. You must not permit this type of devastating environmental impact. What happens when we lose water resources? What happens when we have brownouts and blackouts? What happens when air pollution increases? Think about what you are getting us into.

I love the rural character, agricultural heritage, and environmental beauty of Frederick County. These are precious resources that we must protect. If there is any way to stop this plan entirely, I urge you to do so. There must be another way to generate revenue for the community. Building data centers is not the way.

However, it seems like this plan is advancing, despite significant opposition. Based on all of these serious concerns, I urge you to amend the CDI Zone Ordinance in the following ways:

1. Prohibit any development of data centers near homes.by amending the ordinance to remove the setbacks and to return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.
2. Honor the commitment to protect preservation areas by amending the ordinance to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas for any such designated lands as of 17 June 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I will be paying attention to the upcoming meetings and decisions that you make. Your votes will definitely impact whether I vote for you or not.

Sincerely,

Nancy Warren
Middletown

James, Karen

From: Mary Fletcher <marycfletcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 5:18 AM
To: Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: Planning Commission; County Executive
Subject: Proposed Data Center in Southern Frederick County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mr. Donald,

I am a resident and voter in Frederick County. And I am a resident of Buckingham's Choice Continuing Care Retirement Center (CCRC), which closely abuts the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone. The CDI Siting Ordinance (25-05) looks like it was written by the data center industry; the privileges are many and the protections for residents so few. The follow-up CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09) as currently written is a land grab for speculators. The way the bill reads now, it makes you think that the Overlay won't sit over these lands designated for preservation - but it's misleading, because if the Planning Commission and then the Council agree to remove those lands from these preservation areas, then the Overlay would be fine there. An amendment protecting the currently designated Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas needs to pass so that this can't happen.

Following are the two changes we are asking for:

1) *No data centers next to homes!*

The County Council must return to the County Executive's original protection as presented at the First Reading on January 7, 2025. See *Siting Requirements to Apply to Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities*, line 24 through 26, page 3., or similar language:

**(d) The track of land where the Critical Digital Infrastructure use is proposed
may not abut land that is zoned residential or is designated residential on the
Comprehensive Plan Use map.**

Therefore, first, the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) should be amended.

- 1- to remove the setbacks, and
- 2- return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.

2) *Honor the commitment to protecting preservation areas.*

No sacrificing protected land to data center sprawl

The way the CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) reads now is misleading. It looks like the Overlay will not sit over lands designated for preservation. But if the Planning Commission and then the Council agree to remove those lands from these preservation areas, the Overlay would change these protected lands to an industrial zone for data centers.

An amendment is needed to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas for any such designated lands as of 17 June 2025. This means that these lands cannot be redesignated out of these preservation categories during the Comprehensive Plan action currently underway for the purpose of placing the Overlay there. If this amendment passes, the land currently designated for preservation will be protected and the residents and farmers who live and work adjacent to the threatened land will be assured that their lives will not be turned upside down from data center sprawl.

Why should the financial windfall of a few land speculators be more important to the council members than the welfare of their constituents?

The proposed CDI Zoning Map could be amended by any County Council in the future. What protection is there that a future map will not abut the village of Adamstown? Only returning the language to restrict data centers from abutting residential areas will relieve our anxiety and provide lasting protection.

A 500-foot setback is especially outrageous given that the council members voted to remove protection for the public from noise, vibration or pollution contained in an earlier data center bill. It removed complaint driven action, testing at the time of construction completion and prior to operation, changed reporting by the industry from twice a year to every two years and finally did not provide enforcement or fines for non-compliance with stated noise and vibration limits. The level of pollution from diesel generator testing is not measured or reported periodically.

Yours sincerely,
Mary C Fletcher
3209 Buttercup Ct.,
Adamstown, MD 2171

James, Karen

From: Theresa Furnari <tafurnari10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:45 AM
To: County Executive; Council Members; Donald, Jerry; Young, Brad; Planning Commission
Subject: Comments regarding 25-09
Attachments: Personal Letter supporting amendments to the Overlay legislation.docx

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Morning All: Attached please find our comments to CDI Zone Ordinance Bill 25-09. I hope you listen to your constituents and do what is right for the county residences and the lands of Frederick County.

Thank you.

Theresa Furnari

Sent Via Email 8/18/25

To: County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, Members of the County Council and Members of the Planning Commission

Regarding CDI Zone Ordinance Bill 25-09

Dear County Executive, Members of the County Council and Planning Commission:

We are residents of Frederick County. Our home is on Mountville Road, and we obtain our water from the well on our property. We moved to Frederick County because of its rural character and the breathtaking mountains. We have followed and participated in the work of objecting to the proposed legislation of the county council concerning data centers. We have repeatedly asked ourselves and failed to arrive at an answer as to why should this county council advance the financial windfall of a few land speculators over the interests of its constituents. It is shameful.

Moreover, there is an unavoidable "fools gold" aspect to the data center gold rush. Today, data center customers will purchase capacity anywhere, but soon enough global capacity will exceed demand, and the surviving centers will be those with the least expensive location and operating costs. That will be overseas or on far less valuable land anywhere in U.S., not in Frederick County. We will be left with scarred land housing ghastly white elephants. This is a terrible risk to run for environmental degradation and virtually no long term employment gain.

This letter is our comments in support of three amendments to Bill 25-09 that will be before the County Council on August 19, 2025, for a third reading.

1. We continue to support that the existing acres around the Eastalco site be neither expanded nor rezoned. What we have learned these several months concerns us dearly as to the effect data centers will have on the health of our drinking water, the quality of our life from the constant hum and noise that will be emitted by the centers and the backup diesel generators. As a result of the energy that will be consumed by the centers, we know our electricity bills will increase. There are currently over a thousand acres that can be developed, and there is no reason for the area to be increased.
2. The noise and unsightly view of the centers speaks loudly for amending the legislation by removing the setback of 500 feet for data centers from residences and returning to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas. The centers can be 75 feet high. When we travel on Mountville Road and cross Ballanger

Creek Road, our view is of large square windowless structures. No residence should be forced to live next to something so unsightly and unhealthy. Yet, this is what the proposed legislation is forcing on Frederick County residents.

3. Frederick County is blessed with beautiful land and thriving farms. And we have learned that the lands previously set aside in Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Rural Legacy Area (RLA) or Treasured Landscape Management Areas are fertile valuable lands. Land is not a fungible resource. Once these lands are destroyed, the value of the entire area will be adversely affected. The commitment to protect the lands around the Eastalco site should be honored. Therefore, we support an amendment to permanently protect Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Rural Legacy Area (RLA) or Treasured Landscape Management Areas from any redesignated as of June 17, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Furnari
Gardner M. Duvall

James, Karen

From: lveamazon@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:32 AM
To: Council Members
Cc: Planning Commission; County Executive
Subject: Please support and amend Bill 25-09

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Councilmembers:

Please support Bill 25-09 and these key amendments to it.

First, please amend the bill so that setback language (200 or 500 feet) from a residence is replaced with a complete ban on any data center abutting a residential area.

Second, please amend the bill to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), a Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or a Treasured Landscape Management Area as of 17 June 2025.

I live in the Southern Sugarloaf area, south of Thurston Road in Dickerson.

Thank you for hearing my views.

Laura Van Etten

James, Karen

From: patg123000@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:44 AM
To: Young, Brad; Planning Commission; County Executive; Donald, Jerry; Duckett, Kavonte; Carter, Mason; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Knapp, Renee; McKay, Steve
Subject: Geisinger Property

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Morning,

My name is Jeff Geisinger my family owns the property at 3710 Cap Stine Rd. Adamstown. After listening to people at some of the meeting speak about using berms and other barriers for sound and sight protection around the data center I noticed that our property which neighbors to the west of Ballenger Creek Pike has just that. The Mountville Road area from route 15 to Ballenger Creek and beyond has a natural slow rise which would make adding our property to the data center virtually impossible to see and probably hear from the Adamstown area. By utilizing that area to the west of the data center and east of route 15 the number of homes in that area that could even see the data center could be counted on one hand. Adding this information to our property which has 2 high voltage towers standing and our close proximity to the new fiber optic line it seems to make more sense to be added to the CDI overlay map and be given back our industrial zoning.

Thank you for your time,
A. Jeffrey Geisinger

James, Karen

From: Nick Carrera <mjcarrera@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Council Members; County Executive; Planning Commission
Cc: jacoby, ceoli; Schotz, Andy; Carrera, Alexandra; Carrera, Johnny; Carrera, Nicholas
Subject: Fwd: AI Is Power-Hungry

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Economist Paul Krugman effectively makes the point that knowledgeable citizens in Frederick County have been stressing in our public meetings -- that Maryland is power-limited and that meeting power needs of data centers will be costly to citizens, whether they benefit or not.

Nick Carrera

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

AI Is Power-Hungry

And consumers are paying the price

PAUL KRUGMAN

AUG 18



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This is a post about AI, whose proponents are downright messianic in describing it as the technology of the future. Maybe. But much of their advocacy seems to ignore some mundane limits to AI's growth — limits I'll try to illustrate by talking about a technology of the past.

I was probably 9 or 10 when my father took me to a Horn & Hardart automat. For those too young to remember — who I hope are a large fraction of my readers — these were establishments in which a variety of sandwiches and other foods were displayed behind glass doors. You would serve yourself by putting coins into a slot, which would unlock the door and let you extract your egg salad sandwich or whatever.

At the time (and at my age) it seemed wonderfully futuristic: Food service without people! In reality, of course, automats weren't automated; each required a substantial staff to operate the kitchen and keep refilling those glass-doored compartments. And because automats weren't all they pretended to be, they were eventually driven out of business by the rise of fast food.

Many applications of information technology are, like the automats of yore, less miraculous than they seem. True, the user experience makes you feel as if you've transcended the material world. You click a button on Amazon's web site and a day or two later the item you wanted magically appears on your porch. But behind that hands-free experience lie a million-strong workforce and a huge physical footprint of distribution centers and delivery vehicles.

And the disconnect between the trans-material feel of the consumer experience and the physical realities that deliver that experience is especially severe for the hot technology of the moment, AI. We're constantly arguing about whether AI is a bubble, whether it can really live up to the hype. We don't talk enough about AI's massive use of physical resources, especially but not only electricity.

And we certainly don't talk enough about (a) how U.S. electricity pricing effectively subsidizes AI and (b) the extent to which limitations on generating capacity may nonetheless severely limit the technology's growth.

How much generating capacity are we talking about? The Department of Energy estimates that data centers already consumed 4.4 percent of U.S. electricity in 2023, and expects that to grow to as much as 12 percent by 2028:

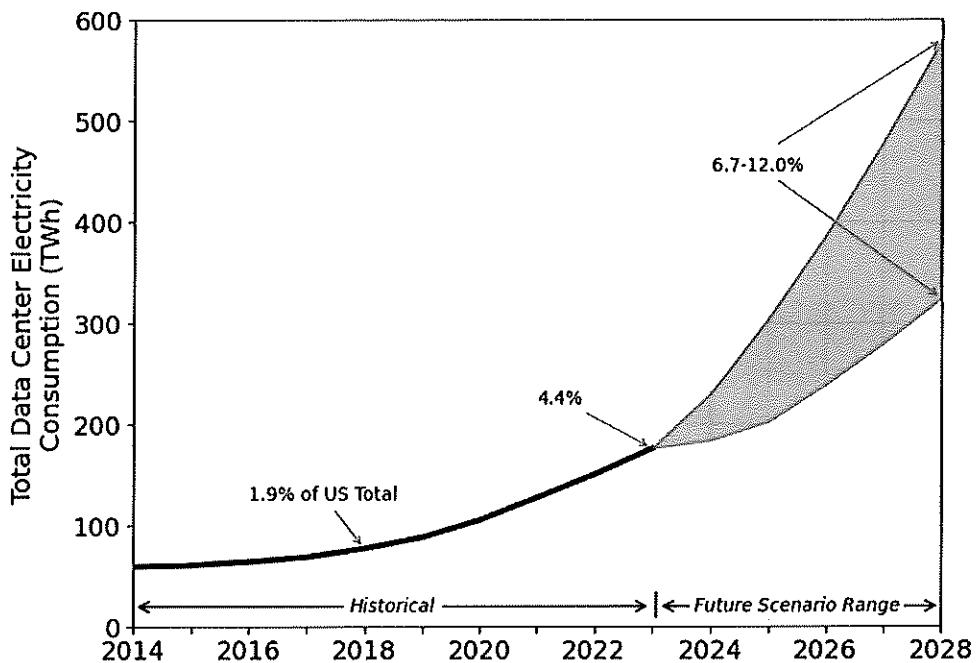
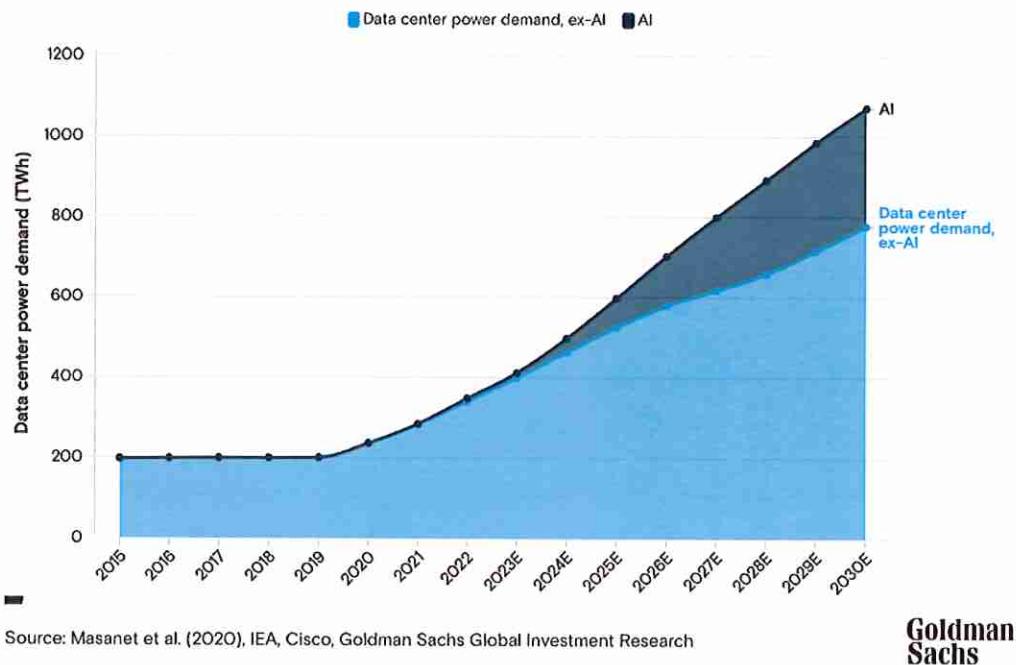


Figure 5.5. Total data center electricity use from 2014 through 2028.

Source: [Department of Energy](#)

AI isn't the only source of rising electricity demand from data centers. There are other drivers including, alas, crypto — which still has no legitimate use case, but now has powerful political backing. But Goldman Sachs believes that AI will account for a large fraction of rising data center demand:

Global data center power demand growth



Source: [Goldman Sachs](#)

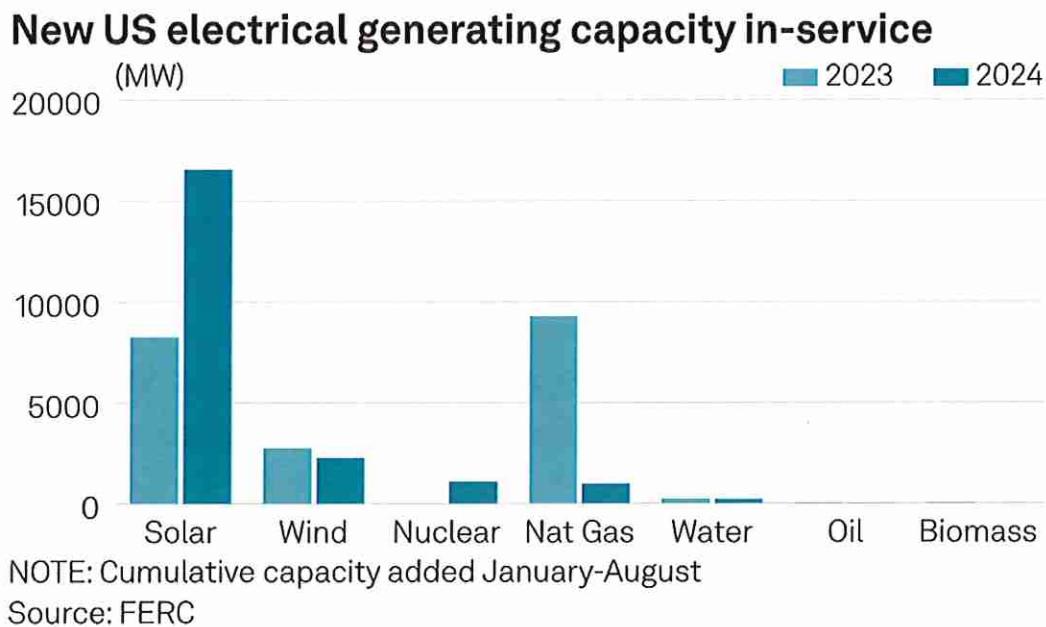
With Sam Altman of OpenAI promising to spend “trillions” on data centers in the near future — and sneering at economists who, he imagines, are wringing their hands — I wouldn’t be surprised to see demand come in at the high end of the Department of Energy’s projections. True, the AI bubble might burst before that happens, with potentially ugly consequences for the wider economy. But that’s a subject for another post.

So suppose that AI really does consume vast quantities of electricity over the next few years. Where are all those kilowatt-hours supposed to come from?

America is, of course, adding generating capacity as you read this, and can accelerate that expansion if it chooses to. But there are two big obstacles to any attempt to keep up with the demand from AI.

The first is that in recent years growth in U.S. generating capacity has become increasingly dependent on growth in renewable energy. According to S&P

Global, almost 90 percent of the generating capacity added in the first 8 months of 2024 came from solar and wind:



Source: [S&P Global](#)

Why is this a problem? Because Donald Trump and his minions have a deep, irrational hatred for renewable energy. Not only have they eliminated many of the green energy subsidies introduced by the Biden administration, they have been actively trying to block solar and wind projects.

So even as Trump promises to make America dominant in AI, he's undermining a different cutting-edge technology — renewable energy — that is crucial to AI's growth.

Suppose that electric utilities manage somehow to get around Trump's anti-technology roadblocks and build the extra generating capacity. Who will pay for all that spending? The answer, given the way we regulate these utilities — and as natural monopolies, they must be regulated — is that the cost of adding capacity to power data centers is passed on to ordinary customers who have nothing to do with AI. This is already happening: Over the past 6 months retail

electricity prices have risen at a 9 percent annual rate, four times as fast as overall consumer prices.

Last week the watchdog for PJM Interconnection LLC, the nation's largest grid, declared that this must stop, that it "recommends that large data centers be required to bring their own generation."

Indeed, requiring that the AI industry take responsibility for the costs it imposes makes a lot of sense. It would by no means end progress in AI. As the website [Tech Policy notes](#), there are many AI applications in which smaller, more focused models can perform almost as well as the bloated, all-in-one models currently dominating the field, while consuming far less energy. Until now there has been no incentive to take energy consumption into account, but there's every reason to believe that we could achieve huge efficiency gains at very low cost.

But will we do the sensible thing? It's obvious that any attempt to make AI more energy-efficient would lead to howls from tech bros who believe that they embody humanity's future — and these bros have bought themselves a lot of political power.

So I don't know how this will play out. I do know that your future electricity bills depend on the answer.

MUSICAL CODA

The Grateful Dread do reggae covers of Grateful Dead songs. We saw them last week; this, recorded on my phone, seems appropriate given the shameful events in Alaska. "Don't you let that deal go down."



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