

Anderson, Katrina

From: Valerie Fox <vee41582@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Young, Brad; Council Members; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: proposed CDI Overlay Bill (25-09) Adamstown MD Data Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Members et al,

I shared my concerns with the Planning Commission a few weeks ago regarding the expansion of proposed data centers in Adamstown, MD. It's my understanding the vote for this bill is this evening. I'm hoping to attend this meeting. I'm asking that my concerns be shared and considered regardless.

I am a long-time 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. Our community values, and infrastructure capacity deserve protections equivalent to those adopted elsewhere. We've seen the impacts that other counties locally have experienced, resulting in large scale environmental stress, public dissatisfaction and trust- all while generating MINIMAL long term economic or civic benefit.

The follow-up CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09) as currently written is a land grab in disguise. The way the bill reads now is misleading. If it's agreed upon and these lands are removed from these preservation areas, they will be up for grabs.

I'm reaching out to express my support 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. An amendment is needed to preserve these lands and that will prevent/permit any redesignation.

Data center sprawl is not what we want or need in Frederick County. We are not a sacrifice zone for commercial interests.

Thank you,

Valerie Fox
8306 Brookmere Blvd
Frederick, MD 21702

Anderson, Katrina

From: NORMAN APPERSON <bapapper@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission; Donald, Jerry
Subject: CDI Zone Ordinance Expansion

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

My wife and I live a few hundred feet from your CDI proposed expansion zone. We are **opposed to any expansion or rezoning** of the area across the street, a few hundred feet from our home, Windsor Estates Community. Our property taxes have increased and our electricity will go so high no one in our community will be able to afford. Our well water levels will go down also in our community. The noise levels of the Data center will be thrust on us without any thought of our quiet neighborhood.

It seems no one has given much thought of the hardships to the surrounding communities, who are also tax payers.

I doubt any of you live in these areas.

Norman and Sharon Apperson

Anderson, Katrina

From: Katherine Collins <katherinecollins@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Zone Ordinance

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing today to express my strong support for the below amendments to the CDI Zone Ordinance:

1. CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) should be amended to remove the setback of 500 ft from residences and return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.
2. 4400 acres of data centers is too many! 1% of county land represents 4400 acres of data centers and that type of land conversion is too many in my opinion. Let's keep the data center overlay within the current Eastalco area.
3. Honor the commitment to protect preservation areas such that these lands will not be redesignated out of preservation categories during the Comprehensive Planning process.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Katherine Collins
202-213-8993
Brunswick, MD resident
21716

Anderson, Katrina

From: Jason Blackburn <rockportmass01966@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Frederick County Council members,

I live in Point of Rocks, MD, not far from Adamstown, here in southern Frederick County, and I'm concerned about the development of data centers in our county. I do not want to see our county become anything like Loudoun County, VA. While I do agree that re-utilizing old industrial sites, like the ALCOA plant near Adamstown, is a good idea, I believe that we need to limit the sprawl of data centers.

To this point, I support the following amendments to the CDI Overlay:

Following are three important changes to focus on:

1. No data centers next to homes!

The CDI Zone Ordinance (25-09) should be amended:

- to remove the setback of 500 ft from residences, and
- return to the restriction that datacenters should NOT abut residential areas.

2. 4,400 acres of data centers is too many, especially when confined to the Adamstown area.

The overlay bill calls for 1% of the county's acreage to be designated for data centers — that is 4,400 acres! It would be smarter to keep the data center overlay within the current Eastalco area, at least until it's built out and our county has an understanding of the full effects of these facilities on our water, power and environment.

3. Honor the commitment to protect preservation areas.

- Ask for an amendment 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.

Thank you for all the hard work that you are putting into this important work, and for considering my input as you make final decisions on this action.

Sincerely,

Jason Blackburn
Point of Rocks, MD

Anderson, Katrina

From: Erin Cauble <erincpc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:25 AM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive
Cc: Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I have lived in Adamstown for 19 years, and am a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church of concern. The proposed expanded CDI Zone is outrageous.

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

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.

What are the council members and county executive benefits from this terrible proposal?

I chose to live in Frederick County because of its rural character. An amendment is needed so that any Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas lands cannot be redesignated out of these preservation categories. The Comprehensive Plan action currently underway is a land specular land grab as it removes hundreds of acres of preserved land from protection.

Preservation / Legacy / Protection no longer matter in Frederick County?

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.

Take action to protect the residents, it's literally your job.

Only one on your Council seems to care, and certainly not the County Executive.

Do your job.

Anderson, Katrina

From: Elyse Wilson <elysewilsonkhk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Fwd: IMPORTANT-Complaint Regarding Illegal Noise from Diesel Generators (Sheriff's Report #25-048088)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Frederick City Council and Planning,

A family in Adamstown, Maryland, is speaking out about a severe noise violation from a nearby data center. The Butlers, who live at **3512 Ballenger Creek Pike**, were subjected to continuous noise from a 53-foot box trailer with **diesel generators** that ran for three consecutive days.

The noise became so overwhelming that the family called the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. A deputy responded to their home and, as documented in Sheriff's report case number **25-048088**, confirmed the noise level was an illegal **68 decibels** in the evening. However, when the deputy approached a security guard at the data center, they were told that "there's nothing they can do," and the generators continued to run unabated.

This incident has led the Butlers to raise concerns about the accountability of data centers and current regulations. They are particularly troubled by comments reportedly made by Renee Knapp and Brad Young, who have suggested that these companies can self-police and do not require **sound abatement**. The family believes this approach endangers the community and shows a lack of concern for residents' well-being.

The Butlers are now appealing to Frederick County Council Member Steve McKay for assistance, asking that the county mandate a neutral, third-party entity to monitor the generators and require proper sound abatement measures.

In addition to the noise issue, other residents are reporting significant environmental concerns. Hope Kanod, who lives on Mountville Road, noticed her water turned brown and found it was contaminated. She lives near a large mound of dirt to the left of her home. Gene Butler also has pictures of the same brown water overflowing from his ponds. His photos show runoff from across the street that runs down the ditch and from the holding ponds across from his house.

We believe you were already aware that the **EPA was called to the site**. This occurred because trucks were seen leaving the property filled with dirt. As you may know from recent documentation dated November 2024, the ground there is contaminated with **cyanide and other poisonous materials**. The East Alcoa plant was built there in the early 1970s, before proper EPA standards were in place. The EPA had to come to the site and instruct them to stop transporting the dirt and to leave it on site. They knew this was illegal but did it anyway, only stopping when the EPA was called. They were on their way to add the contaminated dirt to a residential area. You can verify this information by calling Shannon Heafy with the Air Quality Permits Program.

We are very scared and frightened that some members of the Council believe anything this industry tells them, especially since they have already been caught in illegal activities, and the 1,600-acre site is not even half built.

This situation will be mentioned to Matt Gregory of CBS News today at 2 p.m. in Adamstown.

Sincerely and incredibly concerned citizen,

Elyse Wilson

301-639-4072

Green Hill Manor Adamstown MD

cc: Gene Butler that can verify and give more details of what has happened at his home and he has proof. Gene can be reached at 301-748-3277.

Anderson, Katrina

From: Nathan Swartz <npswartz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:38 AM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Concerned citizen about data centers in Adamstown

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Data Center expansion in Adamstown, the re-writing of language that would allow such expansion, as well as the overlay that would permit the destruction of Priority Preservation Areas, Rural Legacy Areas, and Treasured Landscape Management Areas.

My wife and I, educators both, currently live in Adamstown, just a few hundred feet directly across from the proposed expansion site. We purchased our home in 2020, drawn to the area because of its quiet rural location. We had no interest in living in row and town homes that we've seen swallow up the agricultural areas around Frederick.

We chose it because it looked like one of those idyllic neighborhoods you remember growing up in. Kids can play outside with their friends, running home from the school bus, people walking their dogs, sledding in the snow, playing basketball in their driveways, playing catch with their parents in the yard, etc.

Our neighborhood is filled with civil servants, just like you. School teachers, police officers, retired firefighters, military veterans, etc. Our neighborhood has people that have pulled themselves up and run their own businesses out of their homes like electricians and locksmiths. Our neighborhood is filled with both retirees and young couples looking to establish a family life that we all, yourselves included, have all wished for and dreamed of at one point.

Our neighborhood is filled with life and nature. Directly across the street, in the Preservation area, we have seen such an abundance of beautiful wildlife: deer with their fawns in the Spring, turkeys, coyotes, foxes, and even a bald eagle or two. There are sheep farms, horse farms, and churches with cemeteries all within a stones throw of this proposed area. The data center expansion and sprawl threatens all of this as well.

Why should our community, which exemplifies a slice of an ever-fading American Dream, be forced to face the brunt of expansion? Why should we have to absorb the noise pollution, the water pollution, the stripping of our resources both natural AND financial? Where is the justice in that? The natural habitat will be destroyed, animals driven out. The air will impact the health of those nearby. The power grid will be strained. And most-significantly, the water will, in all likelihood, be destroyed as well as our hard-earned homes and equity along with it.

We in the neighborhood fully understand WHY. Some temporary employment numbers that will shrink to a few dozen employees that operate the facility when completed. Some county tax relief that the residents and citizens will never see a penny of. Some ill-gained bragging rights of being at the forefront

of an "AI boom". Some things that will look, when beautifully spun, like positives for the County. The reality though, is much darker and much different.

Why is Frederick County in such a rush to bulldoze, pave over, pulverize, and corporatize the beautiful landscape and agricultural land that once made it the envy of surrounding areas? At some point there needs to be a line drawn in the dirt, and this is that point. By rewriting and rewording the language allowing things to be redrawn at the Council's whim, what protections and safeguards are in place to assure that this will not happen again to us or other neighborhoods in Adamstown?

I'm glad it provides temporary jobs. But those temporary jobs should not come at the sacrifice of our PERMANENT homes. Protect our neighborhoods. Let us live our lives that we fought so hard for. Our neighborhood is filled with everything you want Frederick to be represented by: Family, love, diversity, tradition, nature, faith, respect, and a strong sense of community.

Look at your families tonight. Would you want this data center next to your neighborhood? Would you risk your children's well-being? Would you risk your parents well-being? Would you want to put your home and equity at risk? We already know that answer. No, you would not.

Protecting a neighborhood filled with citizens and civil servants that have contributed their lives to making Frederick County a wonderful place to live will look a lot better to your county-wide constituents than brazenly casting us aside in the name of "progress" ie: cash-grab.

You have the opportunity to be the hero or the villain to your constituents. We are hoping you choose the former.

Most Sincerely Concerned,
Nathan Swartz

Anderson, Katrina

From: Greg Smith <gpsmith@jgc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 12:07 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Zoning Ordinance 25-09 - Please Amend It to Protect Communities, Public Health, Rate Payers, Taxpayers, Farms and Farmers, Natural Areas, and Legacy Areas
Attachments: Letter to Frederick County Council re. ZO 25-09 - G Smith - 20250819.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

August 19, 2025

Members of the Frederick County Council

Item: Please amend Zoning Ordinance 25-09 to protect communities, public health, rate payers, taxpayers, farms and farmers, natural areas, and legacy areas

Dear Council Members,

I understand that the Council plans to take up Zoning Ordinance 25-09 (ZO 25-09) and associated amendments on Third Reading this evening.

I urge you not to take another step toward locking Frederick County and its residents and businesses into the “Race to the Bottom”, where cities, counties, and states are weakening or simply wiping out critical protections for communities, public health, tax payers, rate payers, and the environment to fast-track projects that are, at best, of questionable net economic value to counties and states.

I live in Prince George’s County, so you might tend to dismiss my opinion and request, but regardless of the jurisdiction, that “Race to the Bottom” is dangerous, unnecessary, and in myriad ways, inimical to the public interest. It enriches and gives additional power to already wealthy and powerful special interests at the expense of the public. Maryland’s residents and businesses will better served if Maryland’s counties and the State collaborate to set the highest standards for data centers, and to strengthen rather than weaken vital protections.

I won’t iterate here the numerous ways that data centers already have harmed, and are projected to harm, communities and rate payers. I know that you’ve already received enormous amounts of information about the documented and projected impacts from Frederick County residents and businesses. The March 2024 Final Report issued by the County’s Data Centers Workgroup identified many of those impacts, and proposed many common-sense measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate them. Unfortunately, some of those common-sense measures have been weakened or eliminated through amendments to ZO 25-09, so the version to be taken up on Third Reader lacks critical protections.

When you take up ZO 25-09 this evening, please amend it in three essential ways.

1. Protect county residents, homeowners, and communities by prohibiting data centers on any property that is zoned residential or that is designated residential on the County’s Comprehensive Plan

Use map. In other words, return to the protection proposed by the County Executive in the original bill at First Reading under “*Siting Requirements to Apply to Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities*”.

2. Protect Frederick County’s communities, farms, and natural areas, and honor the County’s vital commitment to protecting preservation areas by amending the bill to protect lands that are 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. These lands should not left vulnerable to being redesignated out of those preservation categories as the County delineates the CDI Overlay Zone.

3. Protect residents’ health, quality of life, and property values from air pollution, noise and other damaging impacts by amending the bill to introduce or restore measures that: require or allow for complaint-driven inspections and enforcement; require testing at the time of construction completion and prior to operation; require data center owners and operators to report twice annually rather once every two years; provide for enforcement, fines, or other penalties for non-compliance with stated noise and vibration limits; and require air pollution levels related to diesel generator testing to be measured and reported to the County and State.

If you have read this far, thanks for your time, consideration, and public service.

Sincerely.

Greg Smith
3103 Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Anderson, Katrina

From: Jeannie Cameron <jcam1028@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Council Members; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Concerned Citizen - Proposed Amendments to the CDI Overlay Ordinance

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Members,

My husband and I, both retired, live at 5325 Mountville Rd in Adamstown, MD. We moved here five and a half years ago because we fell in love with our house in Small Town Adamstown and the beautiful farmland that surrounds us on three sides. We planned to live out our retirement years here and made many improvements to our lovely 68-year-old home.

We are deeply concerned not only about the current state of the data center so close to us, but also about the overlay plan currently underway. As we approach our home from any direction, we see the ugly cement buildings and the bright lights of the data center. The new entrance they recently built on Mountville Rd is just .4 of a mile from our driveway. When the leaves are no longer on the trees, we will be able to see the ugly cement buildings from our living room and front yard. How sad.

Our home is dangerously close to the proposed expanded CDI Zone. Having a data center next to our home will result in sound and light and diesel pollution, will potentially have an effect the water supply to our well, will potentially cause electrical outages, and most certainly destroy the view from and the aesthetics of our home. What will happen to the value of our home? Would we even be able to sell it? Will the county buy it from us after the land is decimated?

Why should the financial windfall of a few land speculators be more important to the council members than the welfare of their constituents? We kindly ask that you hear all of us.

- 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 about 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.
- Our families 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 17 June 2025.
- We chose to live in Frederick County because of its rural character. An amendment is needed so that any Priority Preservation Area (PPA), Rural Legacy Area (RLA), or Treasured Landscape Management Areas lands cannot be redesignated out of these preservation categories. The

Comprehensive Plan action currently underway is a speculative land grab as it removes hundreds of acres of preserved land from protection.

· We are residents and voters 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.

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 datacenters should not abut residential areas.

3- 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.

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 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jeannie and Jeff Cameron

Anderson, Katrina

From: Ben Trawick <ben.trawick@dcmbio.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:21 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support the CDI Overlay Zone as Proposed

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Planning Commission Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone (CDI-OZ). In May 2025 the County Executive and Council committed to limiting data-center development to the Eastalco vicinity and to keeping it under one percent of county acreage; the draft overlay honors that pledge, encompassing only 2,566 acres. Concentrating growth here leverages existing high-voltage lines and fiber optic cables, while leaving other industrial parcels available for diverse use cases.

According to a study by the Sage Policy Group, construction and fit-out of the Quantum Frederick campus will support more than 48,000 jobs and \$3.1 billion in labor income over roughly fifteen years. Once operational, the campus will sustain about 6,300 ongoing jobs—including roughly 1,700 high-skill positions on-site—and generate an estimated \$41 million in county tax revenue each year. These new funds are essential to supporting county services and advancing public works projects, including school construction and road improvements.

Just as the County has protected agriculture by placing easements on more than 90,000 acres of farmland with a goal of 160,000 acres, the CDI-OZ balances economic growth with preservation. It confines data-center development to less than one percent of county land and thereby safeguards our rural character while opening a modern revenue stream. Data centers also impose minimal traffic and no added student enrollment, yet their presence can help Frederick maintain its coveted AAA bond rating by anchoring major corporate taxpayers here at home.

This opportunity arrives at a critical moment. Federal and state budgets are tightening, and the County will need new, reliable sources of revenue to sustain essential services. Approving the overlay now will position Frederick to capture billions of dollars in private investment instead of watching it migrate to neighboring jurisdictions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to adopt the CDI-OZ as drafted and to resist additional restrictions that could derail this transformative project. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Ben Trawick
509 Wilson PI
Frederick, MD 21702
ben.trawick@dcmbio.com

Anderson, Katrina

From: Jessica Brotherton <jessicabrotherton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:42 PM
To: Young, Brad
Cc: Council Members; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee; County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: Proposed CDI Overlay Bill (25-09) Adamstown MD Data Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Members et al,

I shared my concerns with the Planning Commission a few weeks ago regarding the expansion of proposed data centers in Adamstown, MD. It's my understanding the vote for this bill is this evening. I'm hoping to attend this meeting. I'm asking that my concerns be shared and considered regardless.

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. Our community's values, and infrastructure capacity, deserve protections equivalent to those adopted elsewhere. We've seen the impacts that other counties locally have experienced, resulting in large scale environmental stress, public dissatisfaction and trust- all while generating MINIMAL long term economic or civic benefit.

The follow-up CDI Zoning Ordinance (25-09) as currently written is a land grab in disguise. The way the bill reads now is misleading. If it's agreed upon, and these lands are removed from these preservation areas, they will be up for grabs.

I'm reaching out to express my support 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. An amendment is needed to preserve these lands and that will prevent/permit any redesignation.

My grandparents ran a farm in Frederick County for decades, and I know my granddad is turning over in his grave at this proposal. We need to protect our lands for our children, and all future generations. What is the point of this short term thinking? We should be considering long term damage, and thinking of all our futures. This kind of short- sightedness that is nearly omnipresent nowadays will be ruinous. We are not leaving the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. Data center sprawl is not what we need or want in Frederick County. We are not a sacrifice zone for commerical interests.

Thank you,

Jessica Brotherton

Anderson, Katrina

From: Anne Garrett <ankath@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Young, Brad
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: I support the amendments proposed by Council Members McKay and Donald to the CDI Overlay Zone text

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council President Young:

I am writing to support the amendments proposed by Council Members Steve McKay and Jerry Donald to the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone text (Bill 25-09).

Data centers should not abut residential areas at all! I ask that you pretend for a moment before you vote that we're talking about a potential data center near your home. Think about how you would like it. Please vote to amend Bill 25-09 to remove the setbacks and return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.

I support Mr. McKay's amendment that the tract of land proposed to be used for CDI not be located within a Priority Preservation Area, a Rural Legacy Area, or a Treasured Landscape Management Area as of June 17, 2025. Please demonstrate that Mr. McKay and Mr. Donald are not the only County Council members who care about preserving the natural resources, rural life, agricultural areas, and wildlife of our county. I ask you to honor our county's commitment to protect preservation areas. Please vote to approve the amendments proposed by Mr. McKay and Mr. Donald.

Finally, I do not believe that developers should have the right to build data centers on any industrially zoned property in the county as long as they meet general light industrial (LI) or general industrial (GI) criteria. Data centers are a totally different beast and require a substantial amount of water and energy to operate. The public must have more say in the decision-making about data centers.

Thank you for listening to your constituents, not just the real estate developers.

Sincerely,

Anne Garrett
Frederick, MD

Anderson, Katrina

From: Mike Flynn <mikeflynn209@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte; Keegan-Ayer, MC; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; McKay, Steve; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay Zone proposal

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council President Young,

I am writing to provide comments on the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone Proposal (Bill 25-09), and amendments offered by Councilman McKay and Councilman Donald, that will be considered by the County Council at your August 19 meeting.

I live in Urbana and am very concerned about the development of data centers that threaten our local environment and treasured landscape, especially the Sugarloaf area. We moved our family to Frederick County five years ago because of all that that this County has to offer, especially the wonderful green space and protected rural, agricultural lands that make this a great place to live. We fear we will soon see power lines running through our neighborhoods and huge data centers replacing nearby rural land and treasures like the Sugarloaf area.

As you consider Bill 25-09 and proposed amendments, I ask that the Council to please consider these three comments:

1. The current "right" developers have to build in industrial centers must be eliminated.

I support the basic premise of Bill 25-09 as it creates a CDI Overlay Zone in our County code that will eliminate the current right developers have to build data centers on any industrial zoned property in the county simply by meeting general LI or GI criteria. However, Bill 25-09 needs to be amended to remove the setbacks and return the restriction that data centers must not abut residential areas.

I strongly support the two amendments offered by Councilman McKay and Councilman Donald; these amendments offer additional, critically needed constraints on data center location.

2. Data centers should not be located near homes.

The 500 foot setback from homes is totally inadequate. Our neighbors across Frederick desire better protection from all the impacts posed by data centers. I urge the Council to return to the County Executive's original protection as presented at the First Reading on January 7, 2025. See *Siting Requirement to Apply to Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities, line 24 through 26., Page 3.*

3. Please honor the commitment to protect preservation areas.

There is a critical need for an amendment to protect land currently designated as a Priority Preservation Area (PPA), a Rural Legacy Area (RLA) or a Treasured Landscape Management Areas as of June 17, 2025. As you know, the Sugarloaf area is designated a Treasured Landscape. These areas are rural, agricultural and very important to Frederick County's conservation goals.

Thank you very much for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Flynn
9258 Bealls Farm Rd
Frederick, MD 21704

Anderson, Katrina

From: Christine Franklin <christinemcfranklin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council members of Frederick County;

As a resident of Frederick County, I am writing to request in the strongest terms the following amendments to the CDI Zone Ordinance overlay:

1. Remove the set back of 500 feet from homes. These data centers should NOT be in residential areas.
2. Remove the designation for 1% of county acreage to be included in the CDI centers. That's too much! Keep it in the already industrial Eastalco area and 3. Include an amendment for and commitment to protect land currently designated as PPA, RLA and Treasured Landscape Management areas.

I moved to Frederick years ago largely for the combination of small towns and rural areas and the good quality of life that these allow. While these data centers may be necessary to an extent, placing them near residential areas and on treasured, valuable rural lands will serve only to decrease quality of life for we who choose to live here and pay taxes. The negative impact on families, tourism, traditional culture and property/ land values will not be fair. Take care of the county and its citizens and amend the CDI Zoning Overlay. Thank you.

Christine Franklin
Frederick Co. resident

Anderson, Katrina

From: Anne Garrett <ankath@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:53 PM
To: Donald, Jerry
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: I support the amendments that you and Mr. McKay proposed to the CDI Overlay Zone text

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council Member Donald:

Thank you for your proposed amendment to the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone text (Bill 25-09). I respect you and Council Member McKay *very much* because I feel that you both actually listen to your constituents and are doing everything you can to help protect preserved areas in our county. I hope the other Council members support your and Mr. McKay's amendments this evening.

Sincerely,

Anne Garrett
Frederick, MD

P.S. I sent other Council members (except Mr. McKay) the following email:

I am writing to support the amendments proposed by Council Members Steve McKay and Jerry Donald to the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone text (Bill 25-09).

Data centers should not abut residential areas at all! I ask that you pretend for a moment before you vote that we're talking about a potential data center near your home. Think about how you would like it. Please vote to amend Bill 25-09 to remove the setbacks and return to the restriction that data centers should not abut residential areas.

I support Mr. McKay's amendment that the tract of land proposed to be used for CDI not be located within a Priority Preservation Area, a Rural Legacy Area, or a Treasured Landscape Management Area as of June 17, 2025. Please demonstrate that Mr. McKay and Mr. Donald are not the only County Council members who care about preserving the natural resources, rural life, agricultural areas, and wildlife of our county. I ask you to honor our county's commitment to protect preservation areas. Please vote to approve the amendments proposed by Mr. McKay and Mr. Donald.

Finally, I do not believe that developers should have the right to build data centers on any industrially zoned property in the county as long as they meet general light industrial (LI) or general industrial (GI) criteria. Data centers are a totally different beast and require a substantial amount of water and energy to operate. The public must have more say in the decision-making about data centers.

Thank you for listening to your constituents, not just the real estate developers.

Sincerely,

Anne Garrett
Frederick, MD

Anderson, Katrina

From: Patrice Gallagher <pgallj@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:21 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council members,

As I have done a number of times before, I'm writing to you about data center legislation, specifically the CDI Overlay Zoning bill. Although I've weighed in before, I want to take this opportunity to weigh in before you vote on this bill.

I appreciate all the work you've done on a very complex issue.

My thoughts are similar to those I've sent to you previously.

1. Please don't allow data centers to be built next to residential property. I would like to see the 200 ft. or the 500 ft. setbacks removed. I agreed with the County Executive's position on that.

2. I believe 4,400 acres of data centers is too many acres, especially when confined to the Adamstown area. I haven't heard a solid explanation of what the idea of designating 1% of the County's acreage for data centers is based on. Please limit the data center overlay to the current Eastalco area, at least until it's built out and our county has an understanding of the full effects of these facilities on our water, power and environment. Then we can reconsider.

3. Please protect all preservation areas from data center development. I'm not sure I trust the proposed community benefit system of trading 1 acre of designated preservation land for 5 acres elsewhere. We've been told it can't be made a requirement, legally, and while I may trust Ms. Fitzwater to do the right thing in a scenario like that, what about future County Execs?

Thanks for your consideration!

Patrice Gallagher
City of Frederick

Patrice Gallagher
Gallagher Design
www.patricegallagher.com
102 W Church Street
Frederick MD 21701
301.471.3720

Anderson, Katrina

From: Barry Salisbury <bksalisbury@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:32 AM
To: Council Members; McKay, Steve; Young, Brad; Duckett, Kavonte;
McKeegan@frederickcountymd.gov; Carter, Mason; Donald, Jerry; Knapp, Renee
Cc: County Executive; Planning Commission
Subject: CDI Overlay

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear decision makers,

PLEASE do not create a CDI overlay beyond the existing former East Alcoa property. The size of this property (already over 2,000 acres) will allow for a significant number of data centers in the future.

This is not the time to rush into expanding the CDI. The full impacts of these data centers need to be understood before the county adds more land on which they can be built.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Barry Salisbury

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Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)

Anderson, Katrina

From: Afi Dzodzomenyo <rdatepor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Proposal to build Taco Bell next to Country Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to register my objection to the above proposal. The country church of St. Ignatius of Loyola is a house of worship. On the grounds is also a cemetery. Building a fast food restaurant next to it will increase vehicular and human traffic to the area and disturb the peace and quiet needed for the church's worship.

Please help preserve the peace and sacredness of this and other places of worship.

Thank you!

Rosemary Dzodzomenyo