

James, Karen

From: Elizabeth Law <bettybob1758@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Council Members; County Executive; Murray, Patrick; Planning Commission
Subject: Concerning Data Center Impacts and Costs

Categories: Yellow category, Blue category

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and all,

Please read the attached:

<https://marylandmatters.org/2025/09/10/before-it-greenlights-data-centers-maryland-needs-well-data-on-their-impact-and-costs/>

It is not only at the state level that we need to understand and calibrate the pluses and minuses of data centers but at the county level as well. How much tax relief will voters see if as ratepayers their electric rates skyrocket to subsidize the data center industry?

Thank you for considering this important question.

Betty Law
Chair
Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

James, Karen

From: Bill Steigermann <bsteig@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 5:26 PM
To: Council Members; County Executive; Murray, Patrick; Planning Commission; Elizabeth Law
Subject: Re: Concerning Data Center Impacts and Costs

Categories: Yellow category, Blue category

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am Vice Chair of the FSE., and Betty, Kevin Sellner, and I have been spending a great deal of time learning about data centers for 5 years, starting shortly after Quantum Loophole announced they had purchased the former Eastalco property and planned to develop it on a 2200 acre site for multiple data centers. I want to remind you -- the political leaders of Frederick County -- of a very old but very true statement that the County's political leaders as a group failed to heed: "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP!"

The County Executive (CE) at the time and the County Council (CC) agreed to meet privately and secretly with Amazon Web Services (AWS), which is a common and routine practice when a business is exploring coming to a County to build one or more major facilities. (AWS was just exploring the possibility and did not want the information to be public until they were fully committed to the plan they want to discuss.) So the meeting was held, AWS explained its plan to acquire land at several sites and build data centers. Like 99.999% of the County's population, the CE and CC knew very little about data centers except that the County already had two at Urbana and there had been little or no controversy, and Loudoun County, VA, already had more than a hundred and was raking in several million dollars each year from taxes. The obvious answer was, "Let's proceed and give AWS whatever they want!"

The following is my belief of what then transpired. AWS said it wanted the continuation of total secrecy while they acquired land. This was fine with the County because it was often normal practice. The County officials explained its procedures for approving the construction of new facilities, and noted that they would need to develop a document that described their siting and building requirements, which was a problem because no one was familiar with data centers. To be helpful, AWS said something like, "Well, here is a copy of what is being used in Virginia." AWS then asked that the County to continue to keep its plans secret until construction was ready to commence, which would be immediately after County granted permission to commence work.

This is when the CE and a majority of CC members County Officials in office back in 2020 and 2021 started making serious blunders! They wanted so much for these projects to get underway that they decided to deviate from normal practice of having a public hearing when a new regulation was to be adopted, and they would not take the time to learn about data center technology and what dangers to the public they posed, but would assume that the VA regulations were sensible and sufficient. In other words, "THEY "LEAPED" WITHOUT FIRST CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES IF THEIR ASSUMPTIONS WERE INCORRECT.) The two assumptions (Secrecy and Satisfactory Regulations) were both incorrect!.

Regarding Secrecy, what happened is that the outcome when the Sugarloaf Alliance had taken legal actions to obtain all County documents (including emails) pertaining to the County's actions related to regulations defining: (A) the boundaries of the Sugarloaf Planning Area, and (B) activities permitted and not permitted. What happened was that the Sugarloaf Alliance received several hundred items, including documents pertaining to the confidential meetings with AWS, which were

then made available to the numerous private citizens who seeking information about the data centers that may someday be built at the QL property or elsewhere in the County.

Regarding Satisfactory Regulations, what happened is that those of us who have been researching the potential problems that data centers may bring to the County, along with tax benefits, have learned that the CDI Ordinance that the CC voted in secret to hurriedly approve: 1) Is totally inadequate to protect nearby residents and visitors (including students attending the two schools) from the possibility of serious harm from excessive noise and/or poisonous smoke from burning diesel fuel, 2) will definitely completely violate and reverse the County's stated plan to reduce the volume of greenhouse gases (GHG) produced in the region because of the enormous electricity consumption of electricity by each data center, and 3) is likely to produce some days without electricity and/or water to County residents. Even the revision to the CDI Ordinance that the CC recently approved does little to address these potential harms.

Bill

On 5 at 09:29:23 AM EDT, Elizabeth Law <bettybob1758@gmail.com> wrote:

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and all,

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Thank you for considering this important question.

Betty Law

Chair

Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

Urgent: Meeting September 18th 6 pm-Data Center Violations, Negligence, and the Health of Adamstown Children

Elyse Wilson <elysewilsonkhk@gmail.com>

Dear State and County Representatives,

As a concerned resident of Frederick County, I am writing to formally invite you to a critical community meeting focused on the impact of data centers in our neighborhood.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 18th, at 6:00 p.m.** at **Carroll Manor Elementary School, located at 5624 Adamstown Road, Adamstown, MD.**

We were recently informed that Pat Murray Chief Staff Officer for Jessica Fitzwater will no longer be able to attend, which has caused us much distress. We apologize for the short notice. We feel your presence is essential, and we would be honored if you could attend or send a representative on your behalf. We also expect members of the media to be in attendance.

The Adamstown community is incredibly concerned about a range of issues related to the rapid development of data centers, and we desperately need answers and a clear path forward. Our residents are facing tangible problems that directly affect our quality of life and safety. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Impact and Water Contamination:** We have proof that our water is contaminated due to runoff from a local data center. This runoff has been documented to contain cyanide and other dangerous substances from the soil. We are concerned that because the **Knapp/Young Bill** allows data centers to self-regulate, they are not adhering to rules and guidelines, which is also creating problems for our Sheriff's and Police Departments.
- **Health and Safety:** We are concerned about pollution from diesel generators near Carroll Manor Elementary School, Creating Memories Learning Center, and St. Joseph Church. This pollution poses significant risks to the health of our children.
- **Infrastructure and Quality of Life:** We are experiencing increased traffic and other strains on our community's infrastructure. Noise pollution is a major issue; a police report documents evening decibel levels of 62 dB at a resident's home, which is well above the 55 dB legal limit. We are also deeply concerned about public safety due to the actions of data center workers. **Sheriff Chuck Jenkins** has had his officers

patrol Ballenger Creek often due to high-speeding incidents, and a worker was recently arrested on private property for being intoxicated.

Your presence at this meeting is essential. It is not just an opportunity for us to express our concerns but for you to demonstrate your commitment to the well-being of the constituents you serve. We need your help to understand what actions are being taken and what legal or administrative recourse is available to protect our homes and community.

Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, Frederick County Councilman Steve McKay, and others will be in attendance. Your expertise and guidance are vital to helping us find real answers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of your attendance and the opportunity to work together to find a solution.

Sincerely,

Elyse Wilson

**DATA CENTERS
IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Community Awareness & Action Meeting!

September 18th, 6:00 PM

Carroll Manor Elementary School
5624 Adamstown Road, Adamstown, MD

Key Issues:

- Diesel generators
- Environmental impact
- Air quality
- Traffic., Noise
- Community health risks

Hosted by: Concerned Residents of
Frederick County

Special Guests:
Patrick Murray
Chief Staff Officer for Jessica
Fitzwater and others

**Join Us: Learn the facts, Share your voice,
Get Real Answers and Organize Action!**