



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

July 15, 2026

To: County Council
From: Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and
Councilmember Sayles
Re: Data Center Legislation

Following extensive discussion and public input, we have concluded that the County would benefit from additional space and time to develop comprehensive safeguards on hyperscale data center siting. While we appreciate the County Executive's recent executive order that imposes a six-month moratorium, we believe this moratorium should also be enacted through Council legislation. We also strongly believe that some measure of regulatory certainty is necessary now so all stakeholders can clearly understand the rules of the road as we work out the comprehensive approach.

Accordingly, on July 22nd the ECON Committee will meet to discuss and make recommendations on the data center moratorium bills currently before the Council (Bills 19-26 and 24-26). If the committee gives favorable consideration to a bill, it will proceed to full Council on July 28 for a worksession and action.

Secondly, we have directed staff to develop an overriding amendment to ZTA 26-01 that accomplishes two simple goals. First, it would create and define a hyperscale data center use. Second, it would prohibit this use in every zone in the county. This ZTA would serve as a bridge between the current zoning ordinance and the future ZTA that will comprehensively address all the complex issues. The PHP Committee has scheduled a worksession on ZTA 26-01 for July 22nd, during which we plan to offer the amendment.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact our offices and Christine Wellons from central staff.