



CLIMATE COALITION Montgomery County, MD

Date: February 13, 2026

Re: Executive Order for a 6-month temporary hold on data centers

Dear County Executive Elrich,

The Climate Coalition MoCo urges you to issue an Executive Order for a 6-month temporary hold on acceptance, review and approval of all permits and applications concerning data centers, as County Executives in Frederick and Prince George's Counties have done. You voiced your support for a delay. Now is the time due to the complex regulations that need to be developed. You must also use your influence to advocate for Council to enact a formal moratorium.

At the February 3 Community Forum, several speakers advocated for a 6-month moratorium on accepting or approving permits for data centers due to the substantial number of issues that need to be considered. In your [Message from the County Executive Marc Elrich](#), Feb 6, 2026, you noted there is an extensive list of issues that need to be resolved. You supported a "need to put a moratorium on data centers" if council cannot deal with these issues in a short time.

Bethesda Magazine (2/7/2026, [MoCo residents air concerns about utility rates, environmental impacts of data centers](#)) reported, "During his weekly virtual media briefing Wednesday, Elrich said he would be inclined to support a moratorium on new data center permits and approvals, but that he would not be able to implement one without the support of the council. He framed a moratorium as beneficial for would-be data center developers. 'The sole purpose is to not approve anything during the time that people are drawing up guidelines,' Elrich said."

You, as County Executive, have within your power to institute a temporary hold for data center permitting. As you have noted regarding neighboring counties, the County Executives in both Frederick and Prince George's Counties issued temporary holds on data centers:

[Frederick County Executive Order for data center moratorium](#),
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/default/files/media-document/EO%2042-2025%20Qualified%20Data%20Centers%20Task%20Force.pdf>.

We urge you to show leadership on this issue, listen to the voices from the Community Forum, and issue a 6-month stay on acceptance or approval of any permits or applications for data centers. The complexity of this issue requires us to take the time to do the regulations right.

We look forward to receiving a reply to this request.

Regards,

Caroline Taylor, Kevin Walton

for the Climate Coalition Montgomery County

Member organizations:

350 Montgomery County

ACQ Climate (Ask the Climate Question)

Bethesda Green

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Chesapeake Climate Action Network & CCAN Action Fund

Ecosystems Study Group

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Friends of Sligo Creek

Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Silver Spring

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

One Montgomery Green

Poolesville Green

Safe Healthy Playing Fields

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended/M-83 (TAME)

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee (TPMEC)

Zero Waste Montgomery County