

1. Seeking to open Kent County to Data Processing centers as a form of diversifying and attracting businesses is something that should be part of the County's Land Use Ordinance. This objection to this Draft legislation is not to prevent adequate zoning but rest solely on the language regarding AZD.
2. The inclusion of large-scale data processing centers in AZD violates the intent and purpose of protective AZD zoning and the Priority Preservation Area of Kent County.
3. Furthermore, it violates the Comprehensive Plan:

Countryside Defined (Kent County CP page 39)

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, the Countryside element applies to the Priority Preservation Area and the areas of Kent County dedicated to the viability of not only agricultural production, but also the success of a wide variety of agricultural preservation programs. The Countryside is characterized by land in the unincorporated areas of the County involved in active agricultural production, conservation of sensitive habitat, and preservation of agritourism and natural resource-based tourism.

Goal: Support Agriculture as a Permanent and Preferred Land Use. (Page 43)

Goal: Maintain Agricultural Land and Forests (Page 44)

Construction that is not related to farming or agricultural support services is not appropriate. (Page 45)

It is therefore essential to minimize land consumption by non-farm related development and to target the AZD for easement programs and farm retention policies (Page 45)

Goal: Protect Agricultural Areas, Forested Lands, and Open Spaces in the Countryside.

4. If it has been determined that there is inadequate land available that would attract Data Centers, then a comprehensive look at the land inventory and where there needs to be adjustments in the Employment and Industrial Zones and perhaps alternate zones, excluding AZD, should be undertaken.

5. Given that there are no limits on the number of allowed centers and that the minimum of 200 acres with no maximum restrictions on Data Centers; and given that rural farmland is the least expensive land in Maryland there could be tremendous pressure on our precious farmland in Kent County. There would be less incentive to utilize the appropriately zoned land of the industrial and employment districts.