

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 18

RESOLUTION TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA CENTERS AND CABLE LANDING STATIONS IN WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Recitals

- A. For the purposes of implementing this Moratorium, data centers and cable landing stations shall have the following definitions:
 - 1. **DATA CENTER** - A facility consisting of one or more buildings used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data, and which houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and other associated components related to digital data operations. The facility may also include customary accessory uses such as an office, air handlers, power generators and storage, water cooling and storage facilities, and associated utility infrastructure needed to support sustained operations of the digital infrastructure.
 - 2. **CABLE LANDING STATION** - A facility where subsea cable systems terminate and digital data is transmitted to land-based telecommunications networks. The facility may also include customary accessory uses such as an office, air handlers, power generators and storage, telecommunication carrier interconnection equipment and associated utility infrastructure needed to support sustained operations of the digital infrastructure. A cable landing station shall not include data storage, management, processing or computation.
- B. The County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland, have determined that it is in the public interest for the Commissioners to have adequate time to fully consider, deliberate, and address potential impacts of data centers and cable landing stations, including but not limited to: energy demands; water and wastewater impacts; negative impacts to the surrounding environment; visual impact on surrounding properties; and establish appropriate measures to mitigate such impacts;
- C. In order to lessen and control the aforementioned impacts and to provide appropriate and fitting locations for such businesses, a period of study must be taken so that the County Commissioners can adequately address data centers and cable landing stations; and
- D. Section 1-118(b)(6) of the Worcester County Zoning Ordinance establishes that the County Commissioners have the power and duty to impose moratoria by resolution in order to accomplish the purposes of the Comprehensive Plan and the intent of the Worcester County

Zoning Ordinance and to safeguard the planning processes and provide for smooth transitions and protect the health, safety and general welfare of the population; and

- E. The County Commissioners have determined that an interim accommodation for the regulation of data centers and cable landing stations in areas where they will be less deleterious to the community interest is necessary and have proposed to provide such accommodation by legislative means.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that there shall be a moratorium on the application for or issuance of permits for data centers and cable landing stations for a period of twelve months, or until such time as the County Commissioners rescind this Resolution; and there shall also be a moratorium on all Board of Zoning Appeals proceedings related to data centers or cable landing stations for a period of twelve months, or until such time as the County Commissioners rescind this Resolution.

PASSED this 21st day of July, 2026.

Attest:

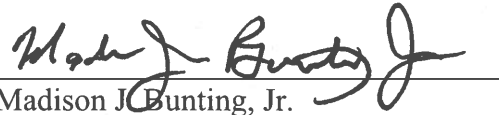
Worcester County Commissioners



Weston S. Young
Chief Administrative Officer



Theodore J. Elder
President



Madison J. Bunting, Jr.
Vice President

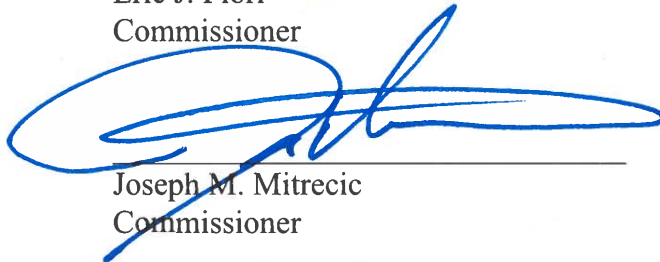


Caryn G. Abbott
Commissioner

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Commissioner



Eric J. Fiori
Commissioner



Joseph M. Mitrecic
Commissioner



Diana Purnell
Commissioner