

From: [Jen](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Project Washington Does Not Belong in Delaware's Coastal Zone
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Hello, my name is Jen S [REDACTED] and I'm a constituent from [REDACTED].

Delaware's Coastal Zone Act has protected our coastline for more than fifty years, and Project Washington undermines both the letter and the intent of that law.

The Coastal Zone Act is clear: new heavy industry is prohibited except at 14 specific sites that were grandfathered in back in 1971. Even when the Act was amended in 2017, it did not expand industrial development across the coast — it only allowed additional activity at those same 14 locations. Project Washington is not proposed for any of them, which means there is no lawful path forward.

Calling a data center “manufacturing” stretches the definition beyond recognition. Manufacturing involves the physical transformation of raw materials into a new product. Data centers do not produce goods — they process information. If this project is neither manufacturing nor located at a grandfathered site, it simply does not meet the requirements of the Act.

The environmental impacts are also impossible to ignore. The plan includes approximately 250 diesel backup generators, which would release pollutants comparable to the kinds of industrial operations the Coastal Zone Act was designed to prevent. Refineries, incinerators, and other major polluters are explicitly barred for a reason — and these emissions raise the same concerns.

There is also the strain on our energy infrastructure. Project Washington would require roughly 1.2 gigawatts of electricity — more than all Delaware households currently use combined. The Coastal Zone is meant to be protected for recreation, tourism, and public benefit, not converted into an energy-intensive industrial site that risks higher costs for residents statewide.

Finally, this proposal ignores the reality of climate risk. Delaware City lies in a flood-prone area already facing rising seas and stronger coastal storms. Current permitting standards require applicants to demonstrate resilience to sea level rise, and this site's long-term viability is deeply questionable.

Under the Coastal Zone Act, the burden is on the applicant to show that a project causes *no negative environmental impact*. Given the massive energy demand, water usage, diesel emissions, noise, and climate vulnerability involved, Project Washington cannot meet that standard.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this project and urge strict enforcement of Delaware's Coastal Zone Act.

Jen S [REDACTED]

