

Meade, Eddie (DNREC)

From: Megan Ka [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 10:50 AM
To: CZA, Program (MailBox Resources)
Subject: Proposed Data Center in Delaware Coastal Zone

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Delaware Coastal Zone Act Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction of a large-scale data center within Delaware's coastal zone. Delaware is one of the smallest states in the country, with limited space and growing population pressures. Approving a project of this magnitude in our fragile coastal zone would have irreversible environmental, economic, and social consequences.

The wetlands targeted for this project are vital ecosystems that provide flood mitigation, water purification, and habitat for countless species. Industrial development of this scale will displace wildlife, potentially pushing vulnerable species toward endangerment. Even minimal chemical or thermal runoff could have catastrophic effects on these ecosystems and the surrounding environment.

I am also personally concerned about the impact on areas I and many other residents use for recreation hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and swimming with our families. Even if the exact site is not a frequent destination, the environmental damage will inevitably affect nearby natural areas, reducing access to green space that residents depend on for quality of life.

Beyond environmental risks, Delaware already struggles to provide affordable energy and reasonable living costs. High-energy-consuming facilities like data centers will place additional strain on the power grid, likely raising costs and reducing reliability for residents. Meanwhile, corporate entities often receive tax breaks that shift financial burdens onto local communities. The pattern is clear: profit for corporations comes at the expense of residents and the environment.

We have ample evidence from other states showing the negative effects of data centers: excess heat, environmental degradation, and long-term stress on local infrastructure and communities. Delaware should not repeat these mistakes. Projects like this drive residents away, erode communities, and prioritize short-term corporate gain over long-term sustainability.

When will Delaware start prioritizing its residents, its wildlife, and its natural spaces, who mind you are also residents of this state over corporate profit? As someone born and raised here, I am frustrated to see our community and environment sacrificed for financial gain. There is abundant public information supporting these concerns, and these facts should not be ignored or minimized.

The evidence is clear! Large data centers consume staggering amounts of energy and water, placing immense strain on local resources and ecosystems. In Delaware, a state already facing limited space and sensitive wetlands, the consequences of such a project would be amplified. Hundreds of thousands of gallons of water withdrawn daily, habitats disrupted, and wildlife displaced are not hypothetical they are inevitable outcomes when industrial infrastructure is imposed on fragile natural systems.

Nearly two-thirds of new data centers in the U.S. are located in areas of high water stress, intensifying competition for limited freshwater resources and threatening both ecosystems and human communities. Short-term impacts are already visible: rising utility costs, local heat islands, and stress on natural and built infrastructure. The long-term consequences remain unknown, but the warnings from environmental experts and advocacy groups are clear.

Over 230 environmental organizations are calling for a moratorium on new data centers nationwide, citing energy overconsumption, water depletion, and environmental degradation. These are not abstract concerns they reflect the very real threats facing our state, our communities, and our wildlife.

Approving this project would prioritize corporate profit over the long-term health of Delaware's residents and environment. It would further erode the green spaces that allow people to connect with nature, recreate, and raise families, while jeopardizing the habitats of the animals that share this state with us. I urge the Board to seriously reconsider: are short-term financial incentives worth the permanent loss of ecological integrity, public resources, and the well-being of Delaware's people and wildlife?

For these reasons, I urge the Delaware Coastal Zone Act Board to deny approval for this project. Protecting Delaware's natural resources, preserving accessible green space, maintaining affordable energy and living costs, and safeguarding wildlife and residents must take precedence over corporate interests.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan K [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]