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Voters should support proposed moratorium on datacenters

Coastal Georgians are well-advised to take action to protect their communities from looming datacenter impacts. Some General Assembly members are taking precautions to help Georgians prepare for a multitude of proposal to develop these controversial data-storage facilities.

A bill proposed by House Democrat Ruwa Romman (97th district) seeks to suspend all such projects until March of next year “to allow state, county and municipal-level officials time to set necessary policies for regulating datacenters ... which permanently alter the landscape of our state.”

The initiative is getting national attention, for good reason. In December Georgia’s Public Service Commission approved the state’s largest surge in energy production ever – 10 gigawatts of power – most of it using fossil fuels, expected to serve datacenters.

Opposition to datacenters is based on excessive use of water and power, each of which imposes potential hardships on residents and businesses. Moreover, around-the-clock noise levels near some datacenters have been so unbearable that residents had to move away to avoid health risks.

Romman’s bill, HB 1012, has a Republican co-sponsor, representative Jordan Ridley, who said he supports it to provide local governments time to prepare zoning regulations controlling datacenters,

Bill sponsors and non-profit environmental groups predict that this issue could be pivotal to political support for lawmakers who demonstrate that they are protecting the interests of their constituents.

Center for a Sustainable Coast encourages Georgians to call their General Assembly representatives to urge their support for HB1012 and other efforts to prevent harm caused by inadequately evaluated economic development.

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