

A Resolution in support of a 3-Year Moratorium on Data Center Siting and Permitting (S.9144 / A.10141)

RESOLUTION #2026-_____

Whereas, the rapid growth in data centers around the country, including in New York State, is driving up electricity rates and putting a strain on the electric grid as well as on fossil fuel consumption; and

Whereas, data center electricity usage in New York State has been projected to increase by more than 9,000 MW in future years, which is approximately double the electricity use of all New York households combined; and

Whereas, data centers disproportionately use fossil fuels rather than renewable energy; and

Whereas, data centers convert agricultural and other non-industrial land to industrial usage, removing farmland, woodland and other resources while driving up land values and property taxes; and

Whereas, the proliferation of data centers, whether to run artificial intelligence (AI) or cryptocurrency mining operations, raises serious ethical, economic, and societal issues worthy of thorough, thoughtful and deliberative consideration by policymakers before further such centers are promoted, permitted and constructed; and

Whereas, in Tompkins County and in the nearby Town of Lansing, the proposed TeraWulf data center, its operators intending to repurpose a former fossil fuel power generation plant on Cayuga Lake, has raised communitywide concerns over energy conservation and environmental protection; and

Whereas, New York State Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblymember Anna Kelles have each introduced bills in the New York State Senate and Assembly (S.9144 and A. 10141) that would impose a three-year moratorium on data center siting and permitting, a moratorium during which time the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will assess the full environmental impacts of these data centers and how to mitigate them, and the Public Service Commission (PSC) will develop regulations to ensure that data center developers, and not utility rate payers, pay the full costs associated with data center development and operation; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board hereby supports Senate Bill S.9144 and Assembly Bill A.10141, and urges that these bills be adopted by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, as this Board believes that such a law stands in the best interests of residents of the Town of Enfield, Tompkins County, and New York State; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk shall forward copies of this Resolution to the following: the Hon, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Minority Leader Senator Robert Ortt, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Majority Leader Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes, and Assembly Minority Leader Edward Ra, Senator Liz Krueger, Senator Lea Webb, and Assemblymember Dr. Anna Kelles.

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