Resolution: A Stance Against the Development and Construction of Artificial Intelligence Data Centers Within the Diocese of East Carolina

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Resolved Clauses:

Whereas, that this Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina recognizes the proven detrimental impact on the environment when data centers for artificial intelligence are developed.

Whereas, that this Convention recognizes that care for Creation is an imperative of all Christians and that care for the land and water of East Carolina is a moral and theological duty entrusted to us by our Creator.

Whereas, that this Convention and the parishes of the Diocese value more our Christian imperative to care for the waterways and lands of God's Creation that are entrusted to us to steward more than any perceived societal progress or financial gain.

Whereas, that this Convention, recognizing our Christian duty and recognizing the perpetual harm data centers would cause to our local environments, deems it meet and right to take an official stance against their development and construction within the boundaries of this Diocese of East Carolina.

Whereas, that this Convention in calling for this official stance, seeks to equip the faithful of the Diocese with the authority of theological and moral certainty of the entire Diocese in their advocacy against the construction and development of data centers in their local context.

Resolved, that this Convention calls upon the Diocese to create a document that identifies the sinful impact of data centers and defines the Christian duty to steward Creation. This document would serve as the Diocese's official statement for the faithful to use in their context to oppose the development and construction of artificial intelligence data centers.

Explanation/Rationale:

In many areas throughout this Diocese, proposals are being made to build data centers for artificial intelligence. They would turn large swaths of our diocese into concrete deserts and drain our waterways to cool the systems within. The promises of revenue and jobs echo the promises made to communities that experienced

mountain-topping, the practice of using explosives to remove hundreds of vertical feet of mountains to ease coal extraction during the coal boom. The waterways and lands where mountain-topping occurred still have not recovered, and most likely never will, even though the boom never brought the promised long-term prosperity. Data centers for artificial intelligence are not a necessity; they are not something we need to progress as a moral society. In fact, it does the opposite. We can simply say no to them and the sinful impact they would have on our environment.

We, the people of East Carolina, are being made the same promises, and we must not let perceived short-term financial gain permanently change our waterways and lands. As Christians, God the Creator of all has entrusted us to steward the land and water we inhabit. As East Carolinians, we are especially blessed to live in an ecologically diverse, rich area where we can find animals and fauna found nowhere else in the world. As Christians, we have a divine mandate to fervently defend this land and its waterways. We are in a boom of the advancement of artificial intelligence; it is data centers that feed it. We must recognize that we can learn from the past and advocate against this environmentally abusive technology. The ecological cost is too great; it is sinful and an affront to God our Creator. As such it is the duty of this Diocese and of all the faithful as stewards of Creation to stand in opposition to this sin.