LOCAL LAW # 5 – Town of Thurston, County of Steuben
Filed with the State of New York this 25th day of August, 2026

TOWN OF THURSTON

COUNTY OF STEUBEN

LOCAL LAW #5 OF THE YEAR 2026

A local law – ESTABLISHING A CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING OPERATIONS AND DATA PROCESSING CENTERS TWO (2) YEAR MORATORIUM

Be it enacted by the TOWN BOARD of the TOWN OF THURSTON as follows:

Section 1. Title

This Local Law shall be known as the "Cryptocurrency Mining Operations and Data Processing Centers Moratorium of 2026." This local law shall impose a moratorium on commercial cryptocurrency mining operations and data processing centers within the town.

Section 2. Authority and Purpose

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the authority and provisions of Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, and all other powers and authorities vested in the Town Board of the Town of Thurston to regulate and control land use and to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

It is the purpose of this Local Law to provide the Town of Thurston time to address through planning and legislation, the promotion of the protection, order, conduct, safety health and well-being of the residents of the Town which are presented as heightened risks associated with Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations and Data Processing Centers.

Section 3. Definitions

"Cryptocurrency" is defined herein as a digital currency in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

"Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining" is defined herein as the commercial process by which cryptocurrency transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the block chain, and the means through which new units of cryptocurrencies are released, with Data Processing Centers employing data processing equipment.

"Data Processing Center" is defined herein as a facility housing multiple banks of computers within a building, modular facilities containing processors in multiple storage-like containers, server clusters commonly known as “Data Processing Centers” and other operations related to cryptocurrency mining, blockchain authenticating, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) processing, general data computing, processing and storage, and other large-scale electronic-based centers.

Section 4. Scope of Controls

During the effective period of this local law:

A. The Code Enforcement Officer shall not accept an application for a Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operation or a Data Processing Center.

B. The Code Enforcement Officer shall not grant any permit for a Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operation or a Data Processing Center.

Section 5. Moratorium

The moratorium imposed by this local law shall be in effect for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this local law unless terminated earlier by the Town Board of the Town of Thurston. During the period of the moratorium, the Town Board of the Town of Thurston shall endeavor to address and regulate Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations and Data Processing Centers.

Section 6. Penalties.

A. Compliance Orders. The Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to order, in writing, the remedying of any condition or activity found to exist in violation of this Local Law. If the condition or activity is not remedied after the issuance of a compliance order, then an appearance ticket may be issued as provided hereinafter.

B. Appearance Tickets. The Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to issue appearance tickets for any violation of this Local Law. Any person who violates any provision of this Local Law shall be deemed guilty of a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than $250 or to imprisonment for not more than 15 days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each week’s continued violation shall constitute a separate, additional violation.

C. Civil Penalty. In addition to those penalties prescribed herein, any person who violates any provision of this Local Law shall be liable to a civil penalty of not more than $2,500 for each day or part thereof during which such violation continues. The civil penalties provided by this section shall be recoverable in a civil action instituted in the name of the Town of Thurston.

D. Injunctive Relief. An action or proceeding may be instituted in the name of the Town of Thurston, in a court of competent jurisdiction, to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of, or to enforce, any provision of this Local Law. No action or proceeding described in this subdivision shall be commenced without the appropriate authorization from the Town Board of the Town of Thurston.

E. Remedies Not Exclusive. No remedy or penalty specified in this section shall be the exclusive remedy or penalty available to address any violation of this Local Law. Any remedy or penalty specified in this section and/or any other remedy or penalty provided by law, may be pursued at any time, whether prior to simultaneously with, or after the pursuit of any other remedy or penalty specified in this section. In addition to the above-provided remedies, the Town Board may also seek reimbursement for the Town for costs incurred by the Town in identifying and remedying each violation, including but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees.

Section 7. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision or other part of this Local Law or its applications shall be adjudged by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or otherwise invalidate the remainder of this Local Law, which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 8. Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Officer is hereby designated as the enforcement officer for purposes of interpreting and enforcing this Local Law.

Section 9. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York Department of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.