

Resolution No.
SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Regular Meeting
April 12, 2021

Intro. No. 25
Approved by Committee MFR
Approved by Co. Atty. SIG

Motion by _____
Seconded by _____
Vote: ___ Ayes to ___ Noes
Name of Noes _____

RE: RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP REGULATIONS FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, "Cryptocurrency" is 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, and

WHEREAS, commercial cryptocurrency mining is the commercial process by which cryptocurrency transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the blockchain, and also the means through which new units of cryptocurrencies are released through the use of server farms employing data processing equipment, and

WHEREAS, the primary cost of cryptocurrency mining comes in the form of electricity that needs to be expended to run the mining machines. The increased number of machines used in the mining operation also leads to more electric usage to run and cool the equipment, and

WHEREAS, cryptocurrency mining servers are different than standard data processing servers — they are highly energy consumptive and have only one primary task: to mine cryptocurrencies, and

WHEREAS, mining operations gravitate toward areas with abundant electricity sources at the lowest possible price, and

WHEREAS, this type of power generation does not in all cases, get regulated under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 (S6599/A8429), which aims to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 40% of 1990 levels in 2030 and by 85% of 1990 levels in 2050, and

WHEREAS, New York State does not currently have regulations on Cryptocurrency Mining.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schuyler County Legislature asks the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to study and develop regulations for Cryptocurrency Mining operations having peak power demand of more than 50 kilowatts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Schuyler County Legislature calls upon the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Legislature to mandate that all Cryptocurrency mining operations permitted within the boundaries of New York State operate solely on Renewable Energy — i.e. wind, solar, geothermal or hydropower.