



For Immediate Release

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North Carolina Blockchain Initiative Urges  
Buncombe County Planning Board and Board of Commissioners to  
Consider Alternative Solutions to Proposed Moratorium

**Raleigh, North Carolina** -- The following statement was released by the North Carolina Blockchain Initiative:

The North Carolina Blockchain Initiative (NCBI), a nonpartisan, all-volunteer task force, strongly opposes a proposal from the Buncombe County Planning Board and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners to invoke N.C.[G.S. 160D-107](#) as a means to limit “proof of work” and define it as a specific land use, separate and apart from other data centers, in a purported effort to advance Buncombe County’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Furthermore, NCBI disputes Commissioner Terri Wells’ claim that “*cryptocurrency miners don’t typically create significant economic job impacts or opportunities*”.

The NCBI stands ready to help the Buncombe County Planning Board and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners consider alternative solutions to the proposed moratorium.

Cryptocurrency mining and blockchain computing services represent a core component of North Carolina’s fast growing blockchain ecosystem. The small North Carolina businesses providing these important services have expanded tax revenue in their local communities and created new technical jobs that our state seeks to attract. Our findings indicate that the proliferation of mining and blockchain computing companies may share a similar trajectory to the proliferation of data centers throughout the 1990s that led to many of the cloud computing providers that provide good paying jobs to many North Carolinians today.

Similar moratoriums issued at the local and state level across the United States have compelled cryptocurrency mining and blockchain computing companies to leave for less restrictive jurisdictions. Consequently, if the proposed moratorium is enacted, Buncombe County and western North Carolina may lose substantial revenue from an emerging industry. The proposed moratorium is also misguided since it would put pressure on a sector that is already leading the charge on sustainability.

Beginning in 2019, NCBI convened a diverse group of experts throughout North Carolina to help research areas where blockchain technology could benefit our state. As a result of this effort, NCBI

informed recommendations and opinions in areas ranging from cryptocurrency mining to education, cybersecurity, rural area development, blockchain in government, smart contracts, and more.

In 2022, NCBI facilitated in-depth tours of North Carolina-based cryptocurrency mining and blockchain computing facilities for local, state and federal officials. The conversations that sprung from these tours clarified and confirmed the positive impact that blockchain can have right here in the “Old North State”. For example, Alamance County, North Carolina is home to the largest application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) repair facility in the Western Hemisphere. Computers that use ASIC circuits are a key component in the growing cryptocurrency mining business. The world's largest [Bitcoin Mining Museum](#), which displays over 10 years of mining innovation, is also based in Alamance County, and is opposed to the proposed moratorium.

Franklin County, North Carolina is home to a startup, [recently applauded by](#) Governor Roy Cooper, that uses the energy extracted from waste rubber tires to power a blockchain computing plant. This plant converts materials that would otherwise be wasted into digital assets and traditional resources like oil, carbon, steel and energy, with zero waste created. There are additional efforts underway across the country to help cryptocurrency miners extract stranded methane and convert it into digital assets.

As a service to the Buncombe County Planning Board and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, the NCBI would be happy to identify alternate solutions to the moratorium, facilitate education, and introduce them to a diverse group of subject matter experts that can highlight the growing environmental benefits and economic development opportunities offered through cryptocurrency mining and blockchain computing.

Additional information and updates are available at <https://ncblockchain.tech/>

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