

**Resolution for NC Governor Josh Stein:
Responsible Climate Action and Evaluation of Low-Carbon Energy Options in
North Carolina**

WHEREAS, North Carolina is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including more frequent extreme weather events, rising temperatures, flooding, and economic disruption, with disproportionate impacts on low- and moderate income residents; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2023 – 2024) identifies fossil-fuel combustion as a major contributor to county-level emissions, and reducing these emissions is essential to protecting public health, economic stability, and long-term resilience; and

WHEREAS, climate driven damages are increasing insurance costs, reducing coverage availability, and shifting financial risk to households, businesses, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, electricity demand in North Carolina is projected to rise significantly due to population growth, industrial expansion, and the rapid increase in AI and data-center loads, which may place upward pressure on electricity prices if not managed responsibly; and

WHEREAS, rapid deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, demand management, and battery storage is essential for near term emissions reductions and for lowering energy burdens on vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, firm, low-carbon power sources — including advanced nuclear, geothermal, long-duration storage, and other emerging technologies — may play a role in ensuring reliability, resilience, and affordability as the state transitions away from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, responsible climate planning requires transparent, evidence-based evaluation of all low carbon options, including their costs, timelines, safety, environmental justice impacts, and contributions to grid reliability; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina’s critical public facilities — including emergency shelters, water systems, hospitals, and communications infrastructure — require resilient, outage-proof power to protect residents during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, large data centers should be expected to contribute to grid stability and emissions reduction by incorporating on site renewable generation, storage, and efficiency measures to reduce peak demand and avoid shifting costs to ratepayers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County NC Board of Commissioners urges Governor Josh Stein to use all available policy tools to accelerate North Carolina's transition to affordable, resilient, and carbon free energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chatham County NC Board of Commissioners supports rapid expansion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, demand management, and battery storage as primary strategies for near term emissions reductions and lower energy burdens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chatham County NC Board of Commissioners encourages transparent, evidence-based evaluation of all firm, low carbon power options — including advanced nuclear, geothermal, and long-duration storage — to ensure reliability and affordability during the transition away from fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chatham County NC Board of Commissioners urges the Governor to lead a statewide initiative to equip critical public facilities with solar and battery systems to ensure resilience during outages; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Chatham County NC Board of Commissioners recommends that North Carolina adopt policies requiring large data centers to incorporate maximum feasible on-site renewable energy and storage to reduce grid strain and prevent electricity price increases for households and small businesses.