Resolution on Just and Sustainable Data Center Management, Industrial Manufacturing, and Clean Energy Accountability in Idaho

Opening Values Statement & Introduction of Issues

Grounded in our Unitarian Universalist values, we affirm our profound commitment to justice, equity, and the systemic care of our interconnected web of existence. Our faith calls us to respond with moral courage to emerging ecological and social crises. The rapid, largely unregulated expansion of both hyperscale data centers and heavy advanced manufacturing across the Treasure Valley presents an unprecedented challenge to Idaho's communities, natural resources, and climate progress.

Because these massive developments consume immense amounts of water and clean electricity, they risk extending fossil fuel dependency, accelerating carbon timelines, burdening local ratepayers, and bypassing civic accountability through corporate non-disclosure agreements. Therefore, we offer the following structured public witness and framework for advocacy, explicitly distinguishing between the resource demands of cloud data structures and advanced industrial fabrication.

Part I: Resource Accountability & Water Aquifer Protection

- **WHEREAS,** evaporative cooling architectures in data centers permanently remove water from the local watershed, while advanced semiconductor fabrication demands high-volume aquifer extraction for precision industrial rinsing; and
- **WHEREAS,** corporate environmental policies celebrate localized recycling breakthroughs and the continuous reduction of chemical process emissions, yet the raw, cumulative volume of resource extraction required for massive new industrial expansions still poses an unquantified strain on local groundwater tables; and

- **WHEREAS,** proven industrial alternatives exist that drastically minimize or eliminate net water loss; now, therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED,** That we strongly advocate for local, county, and state regulatory and planning frameworks that mandate **the transition to alternative cooling architectures—such as closed-loop, liquid immersion, or zero-water air-cooling systems—to minimize regional water consumption** and protect our shared aquifers from evaporative loss; and be it further
- **RESOLVED,** That we call for strict regional mandates requiring advanced manufacturing entities to fulfill their public conservation targets by implementing transparent water permits, utilizing high-efficiency on-site recycling, and providing full public disclosure of all aquifer impacts.

Part II: Clean Energy Grid Integrity & Ratepayer Fairness

- **WHEREAS,** the rapid buildout of massive cloud data infrastructure alongside heavy industrial manufacturing cleanroom expansions creates a dual strain on Idaho's electric grid, threatening to outpace regional renewable energy generation and delay fossil-fuel plant retirements; and
- **WHEREAS,** corporate consumers frequently establish corporate goals for renewable energy procurement, a standard that must be strictly enforced locally as massive new industrial loads are integrated into long-term energy forecasts; and
- **WHEREAS,** maximized system efficiency is vital to protecting grid capacity and reducing overall environmental strain; now, therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED,** That we advocate for utility rate frameworks that assign grid-expansion costs directly to the industrial rate class imposing them, ensuring local families do not subsidize corporate footprints; and be it further
- **RESOLVED,** That we call for binding and non-negotiable rules requiring both hyperscale data developers and industrial manufacturing corporations to achieve **100% verifiable energy self-sufficiency** by funding or developing independent, additive clean energy resources and dedicated Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to fully manage and smooth their localized supply and demand, preventing any resource depletion of the public grid; and be it further
- **RESOLVED,** That we insist that operators design facilities for absolute energy self-sufficiency and resource-efficiency, including mandating **localized waste-heat reuse** (such as supporting agricultural greenhouse operations) wherever Idaho's geography makes it practical and viable.

Part III: Democratic Oversight & Civic Transparency

- **WHEREAS,** democratic oversight is compromised when critical resource allocation decisions are shielded from the public via private covenants and legal design exclusions; and
- **WHEREAS,** communities deserve early public notice and absolute transparency regarding potential major environmental impacts and public health risks stemming from water overuse, air quality degradation, and energy grid strain; now, therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED,** That we advocate for a complete ban on non-disclosure agreements between corporate data center developers or industrial manufacturers and public municipalities with regard to critical resource allocations and/or major environmental impacts, maintaining open access to utility and impact data.

Part IV: Umbrella Resolutions Applying to All Focus Areas

To ensure the consistent and unified application of this public witness across all environmental and civic dimensions, be it further:

- **RESOLVED,** That we demand comprehensive, regular, and transparent public reporting of all water and energy consumption data from any industrial data or manufacturing facility operating within Idaho, and insist that this data be verified by independent, third-party auditors who are granted full administrative and physical access to the facilities to directly inspect, test, and calibrate all resource meters and instruments; and be it further
- **RESOLVED,** That we call upon all developers to enter into binding **Community Benefits Agreements**, established through open, well-defined timelines, negotiated directly with a broad community coalition comprising local municipal and county officials, environmental advocacy organizations, community-focused nonprofits, neighboring residential property owners, and representatives of marginalized populations most directly impacted by resource extraction; and be it further
- **RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be formally transmitted by the Climate Action Team and Fellowship leadership to regional public utilities, municipal planning boards, and state regulatory commissioners to serve as our active interfaith witness; and be it further

- **RESOLVED,** That the Climate Action Team and Fellowship leadership are fully authorized to advance the goals of this resolution through sustained community education, public witness, and active policy advocacy, building a unified coalition in direct collaboration with local climate and environmental justice organizations, including **Idaho Interfaith Power & Light (IPL)** and the **Idaho Sierra Club**.