



August 24, 2021

Via Public Comment

John Howard

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Public Service Commission

New York State Department of Public Service

Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3

Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: Petition of Fortistar North Tonawanda LLC and Digihost International Inc. for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Application Sections 70 and 83 of New York State Public Service Law, and in the Alternative, Approval of the Proposed Transaction Pursuant to Sections 70 and 83

Mr. Howard,

I write today in support of the transaction approval for the Fortistar North Tonawanda property under the New York State Public Service law Sections 70 and 83.

My company, Digihost International Inc. ("Digihost"), will be assuming responsibility of the operation of the plant should the transaction be approved. Digihost is a blockchain, deep learning infrastructure company founded in Western New York in 2018 and is on the US and Toronto Stock Exchange. Digihost has over 100 employees (directly and through local contractors) and is focusing on using renewable and zero emissions resources to power the plant to grow the green economy in New York State substantially.

Digihost is committed to not only align itself with the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act but exceed its timelines with our *DigiGreen Initiative*. Fortistar North Tonawanda is currently an operational plant with an active Title V Air Permit with the Department of Environmental Conservation (Facility DEC ID: 9291200059). The purchase of the natural gas burning plant is simply the first step in a broader environmental plan. Beginning this year and continuing to expand through the end of 2022, Digihost will immediately convert the plant to run on sustainably sourced renewable natural gas ("RNG"), a bridge biomass alternative to natural gas that will allow us to operate with a zero carbon footprint in our early development. The switch to RNG is simple and requires no new infrastructure. In 2023, we will begin to replace our use of RNG in stages with fully renewable energy, including a blend of solar, hydropower, and other sources that take advantage of what is naturally available in New York State. The plant itself will undergo upgrades at the end of 2023 to install and use hydrogen power to replace the use of RNG. This will help New York State be a leader in renewable technology and create new jobs as we install, maintain, and operate the new turbines. In short, this plant will be powered through 100% zero emissions sources by 2025, well in advance of the goals promulgated pursuant to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Furthermore, Digihost's operations in Western New York will set the region up to be at the center of the growing blockchain and fintech sectors. The mining of cryptocurrency is not an end in and of itself. Cryptocurrency is simply a financial application of blockchain, a series of complex

equations that create unique lines of code. Blockchain allows for completely secure, completely transparent interactions between parties. The development of blockchain systems will be the same to the world in ten years that the development of the home PC was fifty years ago. Cryptocurrency mining is a means to an end, as it encourages the growth of data centers that will be able to support the future use of blockchain in e-commerce, finance, contracts, home security, healthcare, and other essential industries. An industry of this size should be based in New York, where it will create jobs, revitalize properties that would otherwise lie vacant, and contribute to the communities it inhabits.

Finally, the development of this project will create stable jobs in technology and technology management, areas where our current workforce is lagging. Billion-dollar international companies have already committed to long-term arrangements to join us, where they will hire from the local community and uptrain job seekers to fill roles needed on site. These will be long term community jobs. As we continue to grow as a company, more roles will need to be filled and more jobs will be created, making New York State a technology hub well into the future.

Digihost will be a dedicated community partner on the state and local level, working with the community to ensure that we are as good a neighbor as we can be. We are excited for the opportunity to grow and provide New York and North Tonawanda with a key piece of technology for the future.

Best,
Digihost International, Inc.

Alec Amar, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to a point on the right.