

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

During the past several weeks you have made decisions that eviscerate the state's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that make climate change worse. Never before in recent memory has a New York State Governor done so much harm in such a short period of time.

Your decisions have been irresponsible and come at a time when the federal government has launched a full scale assault on environmental protection.

You have publicly said that the federal government is retreating on climate change issues and rather than fighting the Trump Administration, you use this as a justification to roll back climate policies in New York. You are doing just the opposite of what is needed.

Your embrace of using more fracked gas flies in the face of sound environmental and economic policies.

Just in the past several weeks you have:

- Reversed earlier regulatory decisions and approved the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) fracked gas pipeline.
- Reversed earlier regulatory decisions and granted a five-year pollution permit to the Greenidge Generation Bitcoin mine to power crypto currency in upstate New York.
- Derailed the statewide All Electric Buildings Act after it survived legal challenge.
- Refused to establish a program to strongly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as a judge confirmed is mandated by the Climate Act.

These approvals mark an appalling reversal of New York's climate commitments and a direct violation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). They open the door for more fossil fuel expansion at the very moment when New York should be leading the nation on addressing climate change.

The climate crisis is here and is damaging every corner of our state. From flooded basements in New York City that kill people after heavy rain storms, to wildfire smoke choking the air in the Adirondacks, New Yorkers are living the reality of climate disruption every day. Families are paying more for food, insurance, and energy as extreme weather drives up costs and damages our communities.

New York once led the way on climate action. Due to your decisions, this is no longer the case. The CLCPA was meant to transition the state off fossil fuels, invest in renewable power, and

ensure that environmental justice communities shared in the benefits. But six years later, implementation has stalled, and your administration's actions have set us back even further.

The NESE pipeline, rejected thrice in the past for its threats to marine ecosystems and water quality, will now tear up 23 miles of the New York–New Jersey harbor, dredging toxic pollutants like mercury and PCBs. The Greenidge plant, which burns fracked gas to power thousands of energy-hungry Bitcoin servers, was rightly denied an air permit in 2022 because its massive emissions violated the Climate Act. Handing it a new permit is a surrender to corporate polluters.

These decisions also contradict your stated goal of making New York more affordable. Bitcoin mining drives up energy prices statewide, costing ratepayers over \$1 billion a year, while the \$2 billion NESE pipeline will raise gas bills for New York City and Long Island families by roughly \$7.50 a month. New Yorkers shouldn't have to pay more to breathe dirtier air and drink riskier water.

Every approved pipeline, backroom deal, and delay in enforcement is a betrayal of the Climate Act's promise and of the people who fought for it.

We call on you to restore New York's climate leadership by taking swift, decisive action to:

- Rescind the Greenidge Generation permit.
- Rescind the NESE fracked gas pipeline approval.
- Enforce and fully fund the CLCPA.
- Stop permitting new fossil fuel projects including fracked gas pipelines.
- Remove your suspensions of the All Electric Buildings Act.
- Adopt the state cap and invest program.
- Accelerate the transition to locally built, community-powered renewable energy and direct the New York Power Authority to comply with the NYS Public Renewables Law.
- Protect the health, safety, and economic stability of all New Yorkers — not the profits of polluters.

Every dollar spent keeping gas pipelines and aging fossil fuel power plants alive is a dollar stolen from our clean energy future. We urge you to stand with the people of New York – not with the industries that pollute our air, poison our water, and profit from our pain.

For too long, low-income and Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities have borne the brunt of pollution. They are the ones who breathe dirtier air, face higher rates of asthma and heart disease, and pay the steepest price when floods, fires, and heat waves hit. Climate action must be built on justice. The communities most harmed by fossil fuels must share in the benefits: clean air, lower energy bills, and safe, good-paying jobs. No one should be left behind or forced to live in a "sacrifice zone."

Renewable energy projects provide affordability, independence, resilience, and fairness. Fossil fuels mean volatility, pollution, and profit for a few. The choice could not be clearer. Wind, solar,

and geothermal power are the fastest-growing and cheapest energy sources available. Building them here in New York creates local jobs, stabilizes costs, and keeps billions of dollars in our own communities instead of sending them to oil and gas executives.

Governor Hochul, we urge you to stand with New Yorkers, not polluters. Rescind these approvals, enforce our climate law, and uphold New York's legacy of environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

- 350Brooklyn
- Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force
- Albany UU - Green Sanctuary Team
- Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
- Bashakill Area Association
- Beyond Plastics Lower Westchester
- Beyond Plastics Sullivan County
- Buy Local, Grow Local
- Capital District Community Energy, Inc
- Catholic Divestment Network
- Center for Zero Waste Design
- Church Women United in New York State
- Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution
- Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)
- Climate Families NYC
- 5 & 20 Alliance Indivisible
- Albany Progressive Action Network
- All Our Energy
- Atlantic Coast Conference Climate Justice Coalition
- Beyond Plastics Brooklyn
- Beyond Plastics Queens
- Big Reuse
- Campaign for Renewable Energy
- Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC)
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
- Citizen Action of New York
- Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravana-Coeymans
- Climate Defiance
- Climate Reality Finger Lakes Greater Region NY Chapter

- Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Coalition for Outreach, Policy & Coordination
- Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes
- Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment
- Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
- Don't Trash The Catskills
- Earth & Me
- FLX Craft Beverage Environmental Coalition
- Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York
- FrackBustersNY
- Freshwater Future
- Friends of Columbia Solar
- Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace
- Genesee Valley Indivisible
- Grassroots Environmental Education
- Green Ossining
- Hemlock Rising
- Indivisible Harrison
- Indivisible Westside Monroe County
- CLOUDTON HAMP VENTURES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
- Coalition to Protect New York
- Communities for Local Power
- Concerned Health Professionals of New York
- Divest NY
- Don't Waste NY
- Finger Lakes Region Makes Collective
- Fossil Free Tompkins
- Frack Action
- FracTracker Alliance
- Fridays for Future Capital District NY
- GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)
- Genesee Valley Indivisible
- Genesee Valley Indivisible
- Green Education and Legal Fund
- GreenLatinos
- Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
- Indivisible New Rochelle
- It's Easy Being Green

- Ithaca Democratic Socialists of America
- Little Lakes Sustainability Network
- Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
- Mothers Out Front-Westchester Rivertowns
- National Coalition Against Crypto mining/ North Tonawanda Residents Fighting Bitcoin Noise Issues
- New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
- New Yorkers for Cool Refrigerant Management
- North Tonawanda Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- NYC H2O
- NYPAN Enviro Committee
- PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy)/350Albany
- People for a Healthy Environment
- Rensselaer Environmental Coalition, Inc.
- Rise and Resist
- Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow, Environmental Committee
- Rosendale Environmental Commission
- Sane Energy Project
- Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible
- Metro Justice
- Mothers Out Front Dutchess County
- Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
- New York Progressive Action Network
- New York River Watch
- North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
- NY State Council of Churches
- NYCD16/15 Indivisible
- NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
- Peckham Action Group
- Putnam Progressives
- Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
- Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith
- Roctricity LLC
- Safe Energy Rights Group
- Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy

- Seneca Lake Guardian
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
- South Shore Audubon Society
- Sunrise Movement Ithaca
- Sustainable Finger Lakes
- Sustainable Westchester
- The Climate Reality Project New York State Chapters Coalition
- Third Act NYC
- Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
- Tusten Heritage Community Garden Inc
- Urbecon LLC
- We Are One Sullivan
- Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions
- Woodstock Farm Festival
- Yorktown100
- Solarize Albany
- Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
- Sunrise Movement NYC
- Sustainable Sullivan
- The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
- The Sanctuary for Independent Media
- Third Act Upstate New York
- TreesUpTompkins
- United For Clean Energy
- Veterans for Climate Justice
- We Are Seneca Lake
- Westchester for Change
- WyCoNY Indivisible
- Zero Waste Capital District