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## **Western New York Environmental Organizations Rally at Governor Hochul's Birthday Fundraiser**

*Organizations join together to support Governor Hochul in the fight against  
MAGA extremism and to urge her to fight using NY energy policy*

Buffalo, NY: The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, with allies from numerous local and statewide organizations, this evening celebrated with a birthday party rally in front of the Powerhouse event venue where Governor Hochul held her birthday fundraiser to thank her for her actions to protect democracy and fight the "Make America Great Again" MAGA attempt to seize congressional power through unfair gerrymandering.

*"It's times like these when we really need our elected officials to stand up to protect and be honest with their constituents, and reject the corporate influences that undermine climate and environmental protection."* said Jim Jones, Clean Air Board Chair and Tonawanda Team member.

Clean Air and assembled groups urged her to further oppose the MAGA agenda by putting her full support behind a goal of 15 GW of publicly-owned renewable energy projects, and to tell New York Independent Service Operator and the Public Service Commission to stop approving any more industrial data centers that do not have a stated public benefit use planned and presently largely lack any sort of regulations to mitigate impacts on NY residents, such as spiking energy bills for other consumers and noise pollution regulations.



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*"I'm proud to stand with fellow New Yorkers fighting extremism while pushing forward our clean energy and climate goals," said Abi Buddington, a Dresden, NY property owner and member of the National Coalition Against Cryptomining. "Having seen firsthand the harmful impacts of cryptomining, I urge New York's leaders to stay committed to clean air, energy and environmental protections that safeguard our communities for years to come."*

Clean Air further urged attendees of the fundraiser to submit comments on three related public comment periods currently open - the NYPA renewables plan, the DEC's DGEIS on cryptocurrency mining, and the continued use of fossil fuels and new nuclear proposed in the NYS Energy Plan. Links to all three can be found at <https://linktr.ee/cleanairwny>.

*"Governor Hochul must reverse her dangerous, expensive, impractical nuclear pushes for \$33 Billion MORE in NYS ratepayer subsidies to keep very old nuclear power reactors running and halt the proposals for NEW atomic reactors that would make even worse waste than the current ones." stated Diane D'Arrigo, West Valley Action Network and Alliance for Nuclear Free NY.*

Diane continued, stating *"Governor Hochul should know that NYS has the ultimate \$10 Billion liability for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site just a few miles from Buffalo, home to nuclear power waste from reactors that ran in the 1960s and 1970s! Why would she ignore that lesson and make more long-lasting and deadly radioactive waste that has nowhere to go and will stay here in our state for eons? Wasting tax and ratepayer money on nuclear steals the resources needed for readily available solar, wind and storage that would meet NYS's climate (CLCPA) goals"*

Clean Air also highlighted the pro-MAGA donations made by the owner and developer of the Powerhouse venue, Jon Williams, including tens of thousands in donations directly to Donald Trump. They urged attendees to ask him to support a utility-scale solar power project at the former Tonawanda Coke site over his proposed data center operations, and



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highlighted his close ties to cryptocurrency mining companies operating at his other properties in WNY.

*“Western New York doesn't need dirty, noisy, unregulated data centers that exist only to make oligarchs like Jon Williams richer. We need clean and cheap energy, good union jobs, and sensible development, and we encourage Governor Hochul to emphasize these priorities and build out more solar and renewable power sources in our community.”* said Melissa Hubbard, Clean Air Tonawanda Team member.

Clean Air also urged Governor Hochul to consider further strengthening the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation by continuing to fund increased staffing and by putting her full support behind strong regulatory actions to protect the environment and climate in response to her former rival Lee Zeldin's harsh cuts and deregulation at the EPA.

For more information, please contact Clean Air's Environmental Justice Organizer for our Tonawanda-area campaigns, Bridge Rauch, (they/them) at [bridge@cacwny.org](mailto:bridge@cacwny.org).

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*The Clean Air Coalition builds power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns in Western New York.*