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Data Center Moratorium Now, Stop STAMP, and Save the CLCPA

Western New York Environmental organizations rally outside of fundraiser for Governor Hochul in her hometown Buffalo

Buffalo NY: The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, Allies of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo), The Sierra Club, plus other WNY groups and area residents rallied tonight outside of Governor Hochul's fundraiser at the Buffalo Irish Center.

They called on local and state lawmakers for the passage of the statewide moratorium on data centers, to oppose the build out of several data center projects currently proposed, particularly the Project Double Reed US STREAM Data Center proposed for the STAMP industrial development and the Riverview Innovation Tech Campus proposal for the former Tonawanda Coke, and to push back on the Governor's attempts to weaken the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) through the state budget process.



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“Data centers add demand to the grid which drive up prices and the burning of more fossil fuel. We need to focus our efforts on adding clean energy to our grid, not overburdening it to the financial benefit of the rich.” said Ben Stilson, Clean Air member leader for their Tonawanda campaigns.

S9144A/A10141A which would institute a 3-year moratorium on data centers greater than 20 MW in size and is currently co-sponsored by area representatives Senator Baskin and Assemblymember McMahon. Participants called for other state lawmakers to support this bill, and for local lawmakers to voice their support for the bill to their peers in state government. They also urged area residents to also contact their representatives to voice their support for this bill before the session ends June 4. A letter campaign tool is available at <https://linktr.ee/cleanairwny>.

Groups also called on local lawmakers to take direct actions concerning specific project proposals, like stopping the tax incentives for Project Double Reed in the Town of Alabama.

“Protect our way of life: we are a small rural community who enjoys peace and quiet. We nourish ourselves with clean air and water. The monstrous data center proposed for the STAMP mega industrial site in Alabama - and bordering the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Iroquois Wildlife Refuge, and the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area - is not nor will ever be a good fit.” said Cheryl Cordes, resident of the Town of Alabama.

She continued with a direct plea to the Governor: *“Governor Hochul, we ask you to stop this monster and stop giving tax incentives to billionaires who don’t need them. Let Apollo Global Management and Stream US Data Centers pay their fair share!”*

Groups further urged residents to contact Governor Hochul to tell her to STOP the STAMP monster data center by sending her a letter via this link - <https://act.nyrenews.org/stamp-out-kathy-hochul-s-monster-data-center> and to sign up for a call relay to contact the Governor - <https://tinyurl.com/3as3k563>



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Janet Lenichek, Chair of the Sierra Club Niagara Group added *“We are witnessing crypto mining and hyper scaled data centers cropping up throughout New York before host communities have had a chance to understand and react to their impacts on their lives, communities and environment.*

We know data centers have negative environmental impacts including low frequency noise, loud noise and air pollution, increases in utility costs, and even the creation of heat domes. We already have several data centers operating in Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda and Buffalo, with new data centers planned in Tonawanda and at the STAMP site in Genesee County! New York State needs to pause these planned developments and consider what legislation is needed to protect communities who are not prepared.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter supports the proposed NYS 3-year Data Center Moratorium and is asking the NYS legislature and Governor Hochul to act quickly to make this 3-year Data Center Moratorium law in NYS.”

The groups also rallied to push back on the Governor’s attacks on the CLCPA, pointing out that affordability is better tackled by investing in upgrading our grid, transitioning off of gas, and doubling down on renewable energy, rather than investing in expanding fossil fuel infrastructure, nuclear generation, data centers, and the tech sector.

“People in Western New York see exactly what’s happening: our bills are rising, our land and water are under pressure, and decisions are being made in service of corporations while we’re told to wait. Weakening the Climate Law to expand fossil fuels, nuclear buildout, and hyperscale data centers is not affordability—it’s a transfer of wealth upward while working people pay the price.” said Dr. Majadi Baruti, Climate Justice Organizer with PUSH Buffalo.

He continued, saying *“Real affordability comes from a modern renewable grid, weatherized homes, and moving off gas in a way that actually lowers*



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costs and strengthens communities. We are not asking—we are demanding defend the Climate Law, stop reckless data center expansion, and put people before profit.”

The groups urged that lawmakers to act to mitigate the harm of a weakened CLCPA during the this legislative session by passing the SUNNY Act (S8512B/A9111B), ASAP Act (S6570A/A8758A), and the Return on Equity Act (S1896/A1028) before the scheduled end of the legislative session, June 4.

For more information, please contact Bridge Rauch, Environmental Justice Organizer for The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, at 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.