

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

September 5, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write to you with deep concern over your administration's pursuit and framing of nuclear power as a "solution" to the climate crisis. We unequivocally oppose any new nuclear facilities in New York State. While it is critical for New York State to achieve the mandates in the the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, nuclear power is not a climate solution for several reasons:

1. **Nuclear power is too slow to tackle the climate emergency.** Any new nuclear plants announced today would not be connected to the grid until well past the 2030 deadline, by which we are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% economy-wide. New nuclear projects like Georgia's Vogtle and Utah's NuScale floundered for years, causing budget overruns, wasted capital, and investors and municipalities to back out of the project. The Vogtle project took 16 years from when it was announced to the completion of the first reactor. The NuScale project was canceled eight years after it was first proposed and had still not received permits or broken ground.
2. **Nuclear energy is far more expensive than renewable energy.** New nuclear energy continues to cost more than onshore and offshore wind and utility scale solar plus storage.<sup>1</sup> With mass scale electrification on the horizon, we need to invest in cost-effective proven climate solutions, such as home insulation, public transport, and renewable energy, rather than expensive experiments, like small modular reactors<sup>2</sup>, which have no guarantees of actually delivering.
3. **Nuclear energy is neither clean nor safe.** Peer-reviewed studies examining the impact of uranium mining, abandoned mines, waste spills, and waste storage on surrounding communities have identified a number of grave environmental harms and public health risks,<sup>3</sup> most of which disproportionately impact Indigenous communities and other communities of color in the US and worldwide.<sup>4</sup> And despite industry claims, so-called "Advanced" Small Modular Reactors produce more voluminous and chemically/physically reactive waste than conventional reactors.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bilicic, G. and Scroggins, S. (2023). 2023 Levelized Cost Of Energy+. Lazard. Available at: <https://www.lazard.com/research-insights/2023-levelized-cost-of-energyplus/>

<sup>2</sup> Schlissel, David, and Dennis Wamsted. "Small Modular Reactors: Still too expensive, too slow and too risky." Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. May 2024. Available at: <https://ieefa.org/resources/small-modular-reactors-still-too-expensive-too-slow-and-too-risky>

<sup>3</sup> Fettus, Geoffrey H., and Matthew McKinzie. Nuclear Fuel's Dirty Beginnings: Environmental Damage and Public Health Risks from Uranium Mining in the American West. Natural Resources Defense Council. March 2012. <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/uranium-mining-report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force, and American Indian Law Alliance. (2019). Nuclear Reactors are not "Green". Available at: <https://aila.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NukeRedPaper3-25-19.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Krall, Lindsay M., Allison M. Macfarlane, and Rodney C. Ewing. "Nuclear waste from small modular reactors." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 119 (23) e2111833119. May 31, 2022. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2111833119>

We urge you to carefully verify everything you are hearing from the nuclear industry and proponents of nuclear energy. The history of the nuclear industry is full of unfulfilled promises and cost overruns. Instead of turning to nuclear energy, New York must follow through on its existing climate action plan to massively scale up energy efficiency technologies, new renewable generation, storage, and electrified public transit while creating family-sustaining jobs and protecting our most vulnerable communities who have historically borne the burden of our energy system.

Sincerely,

All Our Energy	Environmental Justice Ministry of First Unitarian Church of Rochester
Alliance for a Green Economy	Food & Water Watch
ArtRage Gallery	Fossil Free Tompkins
Binghamton Citizens' Climate Lobby	Frack Action
Binghamton University Chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group	FrackBustersNY
BlackAtCuse	Friends of the Earth United States
Brooklyn For Peace	Gender Equality New York
Buy Local, Grow Local	Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace
Campaign for Renewable Energy	Global Justice Ecology Project
Cape Downwinders	Grassroots Environmental Education
Catskill Mountainkeeper	Green Choices Consulting
Cayuga Climate Action	Green Education and Legal Fund
Church Women United in New York State	Green Party of Nassau County
Citizen Action of New York	GreenFaith
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Brooklyn	GreeningUSA
Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls	Greenpeace USA
Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)	HabitatMap
Climate Families NYC	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
CNY Solidarity Coalition	Hudson Valley Climate Science and Solutions
Coalition Against The Rockaway Pipeline	iEat Green
Coalition to Protect New York	Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
Communities for Local Power	Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, United for Safe Energy
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment	Indivisible Binghamton
Concerned Families of Westchester	Indivisible Scarsdale
Concerned Health Professionals of New York	Indivisible YorktownNY
Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy	It's Easy Being Green
Daughters of Wisdom	Lakeshore Environmental Action
Denizens of the Biosphere	LEAF of Hudson Valley
District 1 Youth Advisory Board	Long Island Progressive Coalition
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition	Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM	More Gardens Fund
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking	Mothers Out Front Dutchess County
Energy Allies	Mothers Out Front NY
Energy Justice Law and Policy Center	Mothers Out Front- Westchester Rivertowns
Environment America	Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
	Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation

Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow  
New York Climate Action Group  
New York Energy Democracy Alliance  
New York Interfaith Power & Light  
New York Progressive Action Network  
New York Solar Energy Society  
New York Sustainable Business Council  
Newburgh Clean Water Project  
No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
North American Megadam Resistance Alliance - NAMRA  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
NY Climate Advocacy Project  
NYC Safe Energy Campaign  
NYC-Grassroots Alliance  
NYCD16 Indivisible  
NYS Public Health Association  
Occupy Bergen County  
Outdoor Promise  
Peace Action Manhattan  
Peace Action New York State  
People for a Healthy Environment  
People of Albany United for Safe Energy (PAUSE) / 350 Capital District  
Peoples Climate Movement - NY  
Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York  
Piermont Pier Alliance  
Piermont Rowing Club  
Possible Rochester | Possible Planet  
Progressive Schenectady  
PUSH Buffalo  
Putnam Progressives  
Radiation Truth  
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle  
Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow, Environmental Committee  
Rockland Environmental Group  
Sacred River Healing  
Safe Energy Rights Group  
Sane Energy Project  
Save the Pine Bush  
Science and Environmental Health Network  
Seneca Lake Guardian

Shut Down Indian Point NOW!  
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter  
Sierra Club Susquehanna Group  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY  
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship, and Training, Inc  
South Country Peace Group, Inc.  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion  
Strawtown Studio  
Suffolk NOW (National Organization for Women)  
Suffolk Progressives  
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development  
Sustainable Finger Lakes  
Sustainable Manlius  
Sustainable Warwick  
Syracuse Community Choir  
Syracuse Cultural Workers  
Syracuse Peace Council  
The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York  
The Urban Homesteading Assistance Board  
Third Act Upstate New York  
Three Mile Productions  
Together We Will Long Island  
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative  
Transition Town Port Washington  
Ulster Activists  
UNCAGED - United Neighbors Concerned About GE Dewey Loeffel Landfill  
United for Action  
United For Clean Energy  
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary  
Veterans for Climate Justice  
Veterans for Peace Chapter 51  
Vote Solar  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
Western New York Drilling Defense  
WNY Peace Center  
Workers Center of Central New York  
Zero Hour Binghamton  
Zero Waste Ithaca  
350Brooklyn  
350NYC.org