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STATEWIDE ‘ENERGY HOG’ BUS TOUR TARGETING POWER-HUNGRY DATA CENTERS TROTS THROUGH SYRACUSE

PIG-STYLED BUS CONTINUES TROT ACROSS STATE WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS, ADVOCATES, AND STUDENTS URGING HOCHUL TO CURB ENERGY-INTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE, UPHOLD STATE CLIMATE LAW

NEW YORKERS SQUEAL AT RISING UTILITY BILLS WHILE BIG TECH GORGES GRID

SYRACUSE, NY – Environmental advocates, students, and community groups gathered today in Syracuse to continue a statewide “Energy Hog” bus tour that started in Buffalo on Thursday, calling on New York to crack down on AI data centers and other energy-intensive infrastructure. Participants urged Governor Hochul and state leaders to uphold New York’s landmark Climate Law, rein in extractive AI data centers and cryptomining facilities, and protect New Yorkers from rising utility costs.

The rally featured a bus with a pig-themed exterior flanked by students and environmentalists demanding that the state protect New Yorkers’ wallets and backyards from AI data centers and other energy-intensive infrastructure.

“We cannot allow AI data centers to drive up energy costs, pollute our communities, and intensify the climate crisis,” said **Alex Bornemisza, NYPIRG’s Western New York Regional Coordinator**.

“Everywhere we see these facilities pop up, we see energy grids strained and utility prices increase. At a time when we are already facing sky-high energy costs, Governor Hochul is siding with polluters over people — backtracking on New York’s Climate Law and handing corporate ‘energy hogs’ a free pass.”

Backed by major corporate interests, AI data centers are rapidly expanding across the country—often targeting rural communities and communities of color—increasing energy demand, driving up prices, and generating noise and local pollution.

The statewide ‘Energy Hog’ bus tour will travel to five cities—Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Kingston, and New York City—over the next week to call attention to how energy-intensive infrastructure, including AI data centers and cryptomining facilities, drive up energy costs and contribute to the climate crisis.

The action comes as Governor Hochul proposes to roll back New York’s nation-leading Climate Law through the secretive budget process, closed off from public input. Advocates blasted the Governor’s plan,

which she announced in an opinion piece last month, saying it will exacerbate climate catastrophe and deepen New York's affordability crisis.

"If Governor Hochul is serious about addressing the state's affordability and climate crises, she must halt the reckless proliferation of energy hog data centers, reduce the state's reliance on polluting fossil fuels, and uphold the Climate Law," said **NYPIRG's Bornemisza**.

"As a small business we need to track our costs closely, so rising energy prices are a problem for us. But as an organization with a vision for a sustainable future, the dangers of climate change loom larger. In this case, maintaining New York State's strong climate law is key to both the long and short term goals," said **Andy Mager, Coordinator, Syracuse Cultural Workers**.

"We know that the solutions to the energy affordability crisis are right in front of us. They include rapidly and justly implementing our landmark Climate Law, not undermining it as Governor Hochul is attempting to. They include a moratorium on data centers which are threatening not only our wallets but the land, the water, and the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations, as with the proposed project at STAMP next to the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. Governor Hochul must abandon her efforts to weaken our climate law, oppose the data center at STAMP, and commit to a moratorium on data centers so that we can put necessary policies in place to stop the harms from their unfettered growth," said **Ryan Madden, Indigenous Solidarity Director, NY Renews**

"Unless data Centers commit to providing their own renewable energy, rates will go up and it will be impossible to meet the goals of the CLCPA," said **Peter Wirth, Vice President of Climate Change Awareness and Action**.