April 24, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the 138 undersigned organizations and our members and supporters, we urge you to prevent Holtec International, the firm responsible for decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, from discharging approximately one million gallons of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River.

While Holtec has shifted their timeline back and forth on discharging this wastewater, the company currently intends to discharge in the summer months during the heart of the recreation season when thousands of New Yorkers are swimming, fishing, paddling and boating in the Hudson. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the impacts on the health and safety of local residents, the River’s ecosystem, and local economies. The Hudson Valley region is densely populated and also serves as a recreational area for millions from New York City and across the state. We call on you to use your authority as governor to ensure the necessary state and federal agencies take action to halt the dumping of toxic waste into our waterways including the Hudson River.

The Indian Point nuclear power plant was rightfully shuttered in 2021, yet the spent fuel pool wastewater remaining on the site contains radioactive contaminants, including tritium. Exposure to tritium is linked to cancer, miscarriages, genetic defects and other adverse health effects. There is no safe dose of radiation and its harmful impacts are cumulative. Women, children and expectant mothers are at far greater risk from these exposures. Federal standards on radioactive releases to the environment are based on a healthy adult male and have not been updated to protect the most vulnerable. Simply put, with all that we know now, it would be reckless and irresponsible to continue to dump toxic and radioactive substances into the Hudson River.

The Hudson River is among New York’s most important economic and recreational resources and is an ecosystem for a wide array of fish and marine life. Noxious industries have threatened the River before. We commend your action to oppose and ultimately halt the Danskammer fracked gas plant from being expanded on the banks of the Hudson River. Please continue your legacy of protecting the Hudson River from polluters by calling on Holtec to store its toxic radioactive waste on site and work with regulatory agencies and environmental organizations on a better, safer, permanent disposal method that protects New Yorkers and our water sources.

A growing number of municipalities, including Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess and Ulster counties, have adopted resolutions or written letters opposing Holtec’s plan to dump radioactive waste into the
Hudson River. Senator Peter Harckham and Assembly Member Dana Levenberg have also introduced legislation that would prohibit discharges of radioactive contaminants into New York waterways, and we believe that Holtec’s desire to accelerate its discharge schedule to May may have been an attempt to get around the new restrictions that could be imposed. We urge your office to support this legislation so that Holtec’s reckless proposal does not proceed.

New York’s magnificent Hudson River must not serve as a dumping ground for nuclear industry polluters while we work to continue the restoration of this significant tidal estuary. The economic and environmental damage of dumping radioactive waste into our precious water sources would be profound and unnecessary, only serving the interests of Holtec and its shareholders. We urge you to put the health and safety of New Yorkers first by stopping Holtec’s dangerous plan and ensuring a precedent is set here in New York that polluters cannot dump radioactive substances into our state’s waterways.

Sincerely,

Food & Water Watch, Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director
Grassroots Environmental Education, Ellen Weininger, Educational Outreach Director
Hudson Riverkeeper, Tracy Brown, President and Hudson Riverkeeper
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Action Director
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC), Marilyn Elie
Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy (PHASE), Michel Lee
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), Suzannah Glidden
United For Clean Energy, Tina Volz-Bongar
Westchester for Change, Susan Van Dolsen

All Our Energy
George Povall

Alliance for a Green Economy
Avni Pravin

Arbor Hill Environmental Justice
Aaron Mair

Association for Energy Affordability
Betta Broad

Beacon Climate Action Now (BCAN)
Veekas Ashoka

Beacon Sloop Club
Robert May

Beyond Extreme Energy
Ted Glick

Beyond Nuclear
Kevin Kamps

Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
Karen Argenti

Bronx River Alliance
Elena Conte
Cape Downwinders
Diane Turco

Caretaker Society
Paul Tobin

Catskill Mountainkeeper
Ramsay Adams, Executive Director

Citizen Action of New York
Bob Cohen, Policy and Research Director

Citizens Awareness Network
Deb Katz

Citizens United to Protect Our Neighborhoods (CUPON)
R. Michael Miller

Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena - Coeymans
Barbara Heinzen

Climate Reality Project - Finger Lakes Chapter
Thomas Hirasuna

Climate Reality Project - Long Island Chapter
Francesca Rheannon

Climate Reality Project NY Chapters Coalition
Tim Guinee

Climate Reality Project, Hudson Valley & Catskills Chapter
Tim Guinee, Tom Polton, Eve Morgenstern, Linda Rachele Burke

ClimateMama
Harriet Shugarman

Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
Judith Canepa

Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes
Michael Keegan

Communities for Local Power
Jess Mullen

Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment
Ruth Foster

Concerned Families of Westchester (CFOW)
Frank Brodhead

Don't Waste Michigan
Alice Hirt

Dyslexia Works LLC
Suzanne Buchauer

Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM
Ken Gale

Earthkeeper Health Resources
Amy Rosmarin

Environmental Justice Initiative, New York
Environmental Law and Justice Project
Annie Wilson

EscapeMaker Inc.
Caylin Sanders

Frack Action
Renee Vogelsang

FrackBustersNY
Mary Finneran

Friends of the Mahicantuck
Sarah Bachinger
Green Amendments For The Generations
Maya van Rossum

Green Education and Legal Fund
Mark Dunlea

Green Ossining
Suzie Ross

Green Phoenix Permaculture

Henry Varnum Poor Foundation
Clare Sheridan

Indivisible New Rochelle
Margaret Bradbury

Indivisible Scarsdale
Deborah Porder

Indivisible Westchester
Shannon Powell

KingstonCitizens.org
Rebecca Martin

Kingston Land Trust
Shaniqua Bowden

Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible
Jenny Geer

Lights out Norlite
Dave Publow, Dave Walker and Diana Abadie

Long Island Progressive Coalition
Monique Fitzgerald

Lower Hudson Valley DSA
Chase Zimmerman

Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
June Tano and Rachel Clark

Media Alliance/The Sanctuary for Independent Media
KP Holler, Executive Director

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
Guy Jacob

New City Neighborhood Association Inc
Z. Halo

New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
Jess Mullen

New Paltz Climate Smart
Janelle Peotter

NYC Friends of Clearwater
Edith Kantrowitz

NYC Safe Energy Campaign
Ken Gale

New York Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (NYCAN)
Robert Croonquist

New York Climate Action Group
Judith Canepa

New York Climate Advocacy Project
Ruth Foster

New York Communities for Change
Alice Hu

New York Mothers Out Front
Donna O’Malley
New Yorkers for Clean Power
Betta Broad

Newburgh Clean Water Project
Jennifer Rawlison and Tamsin Hollo

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
David Kraft

Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Timothy Judson

Nuyagi Keetoowah Societies Grand Council
George Strayhorn

Nuyagi Keetoowah Society, Inc.
Ray Evans Harrell

NY Water Action
Ann Finneran

NY/NJ Baykeeper
Greg Remaud, Baykeeper & CEO

NYCD16 Indivisible
Iris Hiskey Arno

New York Public Interest Research Group
Anne Rabe

Oceans 8 Films
Jon Bowermaster

Peekskill Progressives
Courtney Williams

People's Climate Movement - NY
Laurel Tumarkin

People for a Healthy Environment
Doug Couchon

Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York
Dr. Kathleen Nolan, President

Piermont Pier Alliance
Marthe Schulwolf

Piermont Marsh Alliance
Marthe Schulwolf

Piermont Rowing Club
Pamela Hudson

Preserve Giles County
Donna Pitt

Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Rebekah Sale

Protect Our Commonwealth
Freeda Cathcart

Protecting Our Waters
Iris Marie Bloom

Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance
John Gebhards

Ramapough Culture and Land Foundation

Ramapough Munsee Lenape Nation
Chief Dwaine Perry and Stephen (Owl) D. Smith,
Carla Alexander

Rensselaer Environmental Coalition
Robert Welton, Board of Directors

Resist Spectra
Marie Inserra

Responsible Decarbonization Alliance / Keep It Wild
Barbara Jarmoska
ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River)
M. Doretta Cornell

Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow
Jacquelyn Drechsler

Rockland County Democratic Committee
Schenley Vital

Rogers’ Community, Maryknoll Sisters Center
Sister Theresa Kastner, MM

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance
Laura Finestone

Sacred River Healing
Alan Levin

Safe Energy Rights Group
Nancy Vann

SaveOurBayMa.com
Henrietta Cosentino

Sane Energy Project
Kim Fraczek

Save West Hook Mountain
Michael Baum

Scenic Hudson
Andy Bicking, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy

Seneca Lake Guardian
Yvone Taylor

Shaleshock CNY
Sharon Osika-Michales

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Kate Bartholomew, Chair

Sisters of Charity of New York
Carol De Angelo, SC, Director of Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation

SPACE - Stony Point Action Committee for the Environment, Inc.
George Potanovic Jr.

Stockbridge Munsee band of Mohicans Culture Committee
Shawn Stevens, Chairperson

Strawtown Studio
Laurie Seeman

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Linda Reik

Sustainable Energy & Economic Development (SEED) Coalition
Karen Hadden

The Caretaker Society

The Two Row Wampum Unity Riders Pipe
Carriers Cercle

Three Mile Productions, LLC
Heidi Hutner

TownOfUlsterCitizens.org
Laura Hartmann

Transition Town Media
Sari Steuber

Turtle Clan of The Ramapough Munsee Lunaape Nation
Chief Vincent Mann and Paul Tobin
Turtle Island Indigenous People of the Northeast Cultural Foundation Inc Non-Profit
Carla Alexander

Ulster Activists (U-Act)
Amy Kletter

United for Action
Ling Tsou

Upper Nyack Green Committee
Beverley Colgan and Harry Vetter

Waterkeeper Alliance
Daniel Estrin, General Counsel and Advocacy Director

Waterspirit
Rachel Davis

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Nada Khader

West Branch Conservation Association
Terri Thal

Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)
Vanessa Agudelo

Westchester SAFE
Laurie Evans

Western New York Chapter of the Climate Reality Project
Lynn Saxton, Co-Chair

Youth Arts New York
Linda Chapman

cc:
Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado
Senator Pete Harckham
Assemblymember Dana Levenberg
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
US Senator Chuck Schumer
US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman Pat Ryan
Congressman Marc Molinaro
Congressman Jamaal Bowman
Congressman Michael Lawler
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Congressman Jerry Nadler