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PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 18-A OF THE NEW

YORK GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW

RE: GENESEE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY D/B/A GENESEE COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND POTENTIA HOLDINGS, LLC

GENESEE COUNTY, NEW YORK

LOCATION: Town of Alabama Fire Hall,
2230 Judge Road,
Alabama, New York 14013

DATE: February 3, 2025
TIME: 3:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY: SUZANNE SAEED TACKER, Certified Court Reporter
FORBES COURT REPORTING SERVICES
21 Woodcrest Drive
Batavia, New York 14020

Potentia Holdings, LLC Public Hearing Feb 3, 2025

APPEARANCES:

MARK MASSE, HEARING MODERATOR,
99 MedTech Drive,
Batavia, New York.

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Potentia Holdings, LLC Public Hearing Feb 3, 2025

HEARING MODERATOR: Okay. I think we're going to get started now with the public hearing for Potentia Holdings. I think we're all here for the first one, so this will be a bit of a repeat, but my name is Mark Masse, I'm President and CEO of the Genesee County Economic Development Center. I'd like to thank everybody for coming out today for these three public hearings and the proposed benefit for these projects.

The purpose of these public hearings is to solicit comments and feedback about the proposed incentives being requested by each project. These projects are potentially seeking a pilot property tax abatement, sales tax abatement, and or a mortgage tax exemption.

Again, these incentives are not cash given to the company. Instead, they are an abatement on future taxes that would be owed resulting from the development of the project. Copies of the applications for financial assistance and economic impact analysis for each project are available on

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2 the GCEDC'S website. GCDC'S Uniform Tax
3 Exemption policy is also available on the
4 GCEDCs website.

5 These public hearings are being
6 broadcast live at the link provided in the
7 public notice for the public hearings.
8 Again, as we stated earlier, we'll extend
9 the time period for written comments to
10 Thursday at 5:00p.m. They can be sent to
11 gcedc@gcedc.com. Please make sure in the
12 subject line to put data center projects,
13 Project Rampart, Project Potentia, or
14 Project Double Reed. So, we know it's
15 related to those.

16 We do have a sign-in sheet. Please, sign
17 in if you haven't already done so. If you
18 wish to speak, please place an X by your
19 name. If you have already spoken, your
20 comments are in the record. If there are
21 different comments you would like to
22 provide, you can come up and do that at this
23 time.

24 Please note that these public hearings
25 are not a question-and-answer period. Any

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2 comments received, either written or oral,
3 will be compiled and given to the board
4 prior to the board meeting where a final
5 vote on the proposed sentence will take
6 place.

7 We will start with a brief overview of
8 the proposed project for Potentia Holdings,
9 when that's been completed, we'll go to the
10 sign in sheet and read off on who asked.

11 We just, again, providing any -- before
12 providing any comments, we ask that each
13 speaker clearly state their name and address
14 so we can make sure it is accurately
15 reflective in the record. You'll be given
16 three minutes to Rev provide comments. We--
17 please ask that everybody try to stick to
18 the three minutes. We want to make sure
19 everybody has an opportunity to speak here.

20 Again, Matt, we'll be giving notice when
21 there's 30 seconds left to go in your
22 comment period.

23 For Project Potentia, this is a proposed
24 892,000 square foot data center, \$2.156
25 billion investment, proposed incentives of a

1 Potentia Holdings, LLC Public Hearing Feb 3, 2025

2 sales tax exemption of \$125 million and a
3 property tax exemption in this case of
4 almost \$43 million. And this project is
5 estimated to generate a total of \$143
6 million in local municipal revenue over 20
7 years.

8 We'll go now to the public comment
9 period. Again, before making comments, we
10 just ask that each speaker clearly state
11 their name, spell their last name, state
12 their municipality of residence clearly so
13 we can get it correctly in the record.

14 And again, if you are new to come up and
15 speak and you wish your comments to apply to
16 all three projects, please, just state that
17 we will make sure that all three will -- all
18 of your comments will apply to all three.

19 And again, please also note that the
20 three projects are mutually exclusive, as
21 they seek to acquire overlapping property.

22 Accordingly, the GCEDC board is only
23 considering whether to approve one or none
24 of the projects.

25 VOICES: None.

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2 HEARING MODERATOR: Karen Jones?

3 MS. JONES: My name is Karen Jones and
4 I'm a resident of the town of Shelby in
5 Medina, New York. I live six miles just
6 north of the STAMP site.

7 As a resident of the Western New York
8 Community, I am writing to express my
9 opposition to and my concerns for the
10 community regarding the financial incentives
11 being offered to the three recently approved
12 projects; Project Potentia, and the
13 development of Project Potentia by GCEDC,
14 Project Rampart, and the same, and project
15 Double Reed and the same.

16 I don't understand Mr. Masse's comment
17 just now about how the vote will be for one
18 or none. Have you already determined which
19 one?

20 HEARING MODERATOR: No. All three will
21 not fit at the study. The board would not
22 approve three data center projects. At
23 most, they would approve one or none of
24 them.

25 MS. JONES: Thank you. Can you please

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2 not take that off of my time?

3 HEARING MODERATOR: Yeah.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you.

5 So, I'm here to express my concerns
6 about the financial and environmental impact
7 of these projects as well as the lack of
8 transparency in this process.

9 Across the United States, the most
10 responsible and successful data center
11 projects are those where companies fully
12 fund their own infrastructure and commit to
13 sustainable energy and water use from the
14 outset.

15 Microsoft's data centers in Quincy,
16 Washington operate entirely on hydroelectric
17 power and do not shift infrastructure costs
18 onto local rate payers. Google's Hamina
19 Finland facility uses sea water instead of
20 fresh water for cooling, significantly
21 reducing its environmental footprint.

22 Matt's data centers in Ohio and Tennessee
23 are powered by a hundred percent renewable
24 energy without relying on public subsidies.

25 In contrast, the company's developed

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2 STAMP are seeking financial incentives
3 without clear commitments to funding their
4 own infrastructure, protecting local
5 resources or ensuring their operations will
6 not increase costs for Western New York
7 residents.

8 The required substations and other
9 energy upgrade raise serious concerns about
10 whether electricity rate payers in Western
11 New York will be left covering the costs.

12 A billing company report has already
13 warned that growing data center energy
14 demand could lead to higher utility bills
15 nationwide.

16 If public funds or rate-payer dollars
17 are used to subsidize these facilities, the
18 full details must be disclosed in advance
19 according to law. Yet this information was
20 withheld until this past Friday, the very
21 day comments from the public were due making
22 it nearly impossible for the community to
23 actually evaluate the deal.

24 Additionally, the environmental impact
25 of these facilities must be addressed.

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2 Hyperscale data centers are notorious
3 for their massive electricity and water
4 consumption without clear commitments from
5 these companies regarding their energy
6 sources, cooling methods and water use,
7 Western New York risks bearing the long-term
8 environmental consequence without seeing
9 meaningful local benefits.

10 Can you explain why the company
11 developed its STAMP are requiring public
12 financial incentives and shifting electric
13 infrastructure costs onto Western New York
14 rather than self-funding their own
15 substations and committing to 100 percent
16 renewable energy solutions from day one?

17 The town of Alabama and the Board of
18 STAMP have an ethical and legal duty to
19 represent all the people who will be
20 directly impacted by these projects.
21 Therefore, it's imperative that the board of
22 the Genesee County Economic Development
23 Agency and the Town of Alabama lay the
24 groundwork now to protect local citizens
25 first.

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2 Most of all, they must ensure that they
3 contribute its fair share to electricity and
4 water while protecting local resources and
5 respecting Native American rights.

6 First of all, by extending the written
7 comment period beyond this Thursday of this
8 week. There must be another public hearing
9 that is extended in a reasonable timeframe
10 for working people to attend the very
11 earliest beginning at 5:00 p.m. You must
12 publicize the hearing. This hearing is not
13 on the town of Alabama's website, even
14 though you can click on Western New York
15 STAMP, and it will take you to very nice PR,
16 but nothing about this hearing.

17 Furthermore, this public notice was only
18 posted in the Batavia Daily News, which has
19 paywall. Meanwhile, you could have published
20 in the Penny Saver, Video News Service, the
21 Orleans Hub, an investigative post, all of
22 which have the ability to post a public
23 notice. He must ensure utility cost,
24 transparency and fair contribution required
25 data centers to pay impact, fees and tier

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2 rate surcharges for high electricity and
3 water usage, preventing the rest of us from
4 subsidizing that cost.

5 Insist upon direct agreements with
6 utilities that are long-term contracts to
7 prevent sudden price hikes for locals. And
8 these are the biggest concerns when it comes
9 to how will this impact us. It truly will be
10 our electric bill and our water bill. It is
11 going to skyrocket.

12 You must require power purchase
13 agreements that incentivize renewables and
14 efficiency manners -- measures.

15 Require facility owners to actually
16 report quarterly their water and energy use
17 and implement strict water withdrawal
18 permits with maxable, malleable usage,
19 require zero liquid discharge or advanced
20 water treatment. In terms of wetland and
21 ecosystem, conduct thorough environmental
22 impact assessments and include noise and air
23 quality and public health studies.

24 You must maintain and strengthen tribal
25 and community protections and require formal

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2 consultation with the tribes here. You must
3 ensure construction does not disrupt
4 indigenous heritage. And you must make data
5 centers enter agreements that provide
6 tangible benefits, job training,
7 environmental restoration, funding for local
8 infrastructure. And you must establish
9 third-party audits of electricity, water
10 use, and environmental compliance with
11 penalties. And you've done none of these
12 things in preparation for this.

13 Without clear commitments on these
14 issues, especially having enforceable
15 mechanisms, this project does not represent
16 a responsible or fair investment for Western
17 New York residents. Thank you.

18 HEARING MODERATOR: Annie Hope.

19 FEMELE VOICE: That's what we're going to
20 hear 24/7.

21 HEARING MODERATOR: Annie Hope.

22 MS. HOPE: My name is Annie Hope. I'm a
23 resident of Ithaca, New York. I'm reading a
24 statement on behalf of Kate Kremer, K-A-T-E
25 K-R-E-M-E-R, who is a resident of

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2 Lyndonville, New York.

3 "Dear GCEDC CEO, Mark Masse, pursuant to
4 General Municipal Law 859-(a), I am writing
5 to oppose the proposed financial incentives
6 for Project Rampart, and I'm assuming all of
7 the projects. There are a few publicly
8 available details about this project. The
9 financial incentives at issue are not listed
10 on the GCEDC website. Neither was any cost-
11 benefit analysis.

12 A primary focus of economic development
13 in rural communities is the creation of
14 good-paying permanent jobs. Data centers do
15 not employ many full-time employees given
16 the size of their operations. To assess
17 fiscal incentives, it is important to know
18 the number of permanent jobs and the salary
19 range for the various planned positions.

20 Despite scarce specific economic data on
21 this project, enough is known about data
22 centers in general and the specific location
23 to deny incentives for the data center
24 project. STAMP is described as a green
25 manufacturing mega site. The only green

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2 thing about data centers is their enormous
3 use of green energy or whatever cheap energy
4 is available.

5 The large footprint of this project, its
6 high energy use, its heavy environmental
7 impact and 24/7 infrasound noise, along with
8 its scarcity of well-paying permanent
9 positions in proportion to its size are
10 reasons the project is not a good fit for
11 the STAMP project and why no incentives
12 should be granted.

13 If the GCEDC plans to move forward with
14 incentives for this project, I request that
15 additional data be posted and another public
16 hearing be held.

17 Additionally, I want to address the
18 incompatibility of the STAMP project overall
19 to the rural nature of this community. This
20 is true of the proposed data centers and of
21 the existing manufacturing at the STAMP
22 site. Scheduling the hearing on the date of
23 an important religious holiday for the
24 neighboring Tonawanda Seneca Nation, lets me
25 know that the GCEDC is not in communication

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2 with this important stakeholder. This is a
3 mistake -- this is a mistake that should be
4 rectified.

5 Had it been in early conversations with
6 TSN, the GCEDC could have reconsidered the
7 location and or boundaries of the site.
8 Instead, Genesee County has created
9 incompatible use right next to the TSN land.
10 Noise, air pollution, wastewater, use of
11 toxic materials all within close proximity
12 to TSN Sacred Lands is intolerable for their
13 community and way of life.

14 HEARING MODERATOR: 30 seconds.

15 MS. HOPE: Noise travels widely across
16 undeveloped land. Air pollution does not
17 know boundaries. Extremely high-water usage
18 and subsequent wastewater disposal poses
19 threats to waterways that flow widely to
20 impact the entire area. The danger of toxic
21 spills is increased by the STAMP site.

22 Secondly, the site does not border
23 but is near the Iroquois National Wildlife
24 Refuge. The same issues as listed for the
25 TSN are applicable to the INWR. There is a

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2 reason that we do not build skyscrapers in
3 the middle of rural farmland. It does not
4 fit the character of the area. The same can
5 be said for the STAMP site.

6 Although large amounts of money have
7 been put into this site, it is past time to
8 take a second look and accommodate the needs
9 and concerns of our Towanda Seneca Nation
10 neighbors. Thank you.

11 HEARING MODERATOR: Vicky Lawson.

12 MS. LAWSON: I did not put a check next
13 to my name yet.

14 HEARING MODERATOR: Oh, well there's one
15 on here, but okay.

16 MS. LAWSON: Didn't. Maybe next time.

17 HEARING MODERATOR: Okay. Jason
18 Michalski.

19 MR. MICHALSKI: Hello. Jason Michalski,
20 I'm a resident business owner at Orleans
21 County. I frequently attend Genesee County
22 spend my money. I also attend the wildlife
23 refuge frequently for hunting and just
24 enjoying the wildlife.

25 I would like my comments applied to all

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2 projects and all incentives. I firmly
3 oppose this. This project has been ram-
4 routed to the citizens with little to no
5 input as evidence by many comments thus far.
6 All incentives that you shouldn't be picking
7 winners and losers. Corporate greed has
8 gotten out control in this country. People
9 are waking up to it.

10 We saw little input from US citizens,
11 yet you continue to destroy our environment.
12 It'd be one thing if you were living right
13 next door, but I highly doubt you are.

14 So once again, I oppose all these
15 incentives. I ask that you be children of
16 light rather than children of darkness.
17 Please, encourage the community to come
18 together and see how we're going to make an
19 impact in a positive way rather than this
20 negativity.

21 HEARING MODERATOR: Aurora Bursino

22 (phonetic).

23 MS. BURSINO: Hi, My name's Aurora
24 Bursino. I live in Ransomville, New York.
25 I'm a senior certified surgical technologist

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2 at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

3 I'm speaking in opposition to all three
4 data centers at the STAMP site, as well as
5 all other development at the STAMP site.

6 I love my career in the operating room,
7 but taking care of cancer patients is a job
8 I wish did not exist. Unfortunately, in
9 Western New York, we have a huge amount of
10 environmental pollutants, which is directly
11 responsible for our high cancer rates. This
12 project is a clear example of how capitalism
13 has lost its god damn mind.

14 Growth for the sake of growth is the
15 ideology of a cancer cell. The fact that
16 this proposed project is even a possibility
17 is absolutely insane, there is absolutely no
18 reason why this location should even be
19 considered for development. The STAMP site
20 is located in the middle of the John White
21 Wildlife Management area, Iroquois National
22 Wildlife Refuge, the Tonawanda Wildlife
23 Management area, and of course the Tonawanda
24 Seneca Nation. If the only value you find in
25 the world is money, you have completely lost

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2 and forgotten the meaning for life and the
3 reason for existence.

4 It's clear that every single person who
5 made the decisions to get us to all to this
6 point has lost their connection to the
7 earth. And they do not care about anyone
8 else's connection to the earth or any other
9 living beings. Because they have lost their
10 own connections to the natural world, they
11 do not understand or respect anyone else's
12 connection to the earth, in particular, the
13 indigenous peoples who are the original
14 people of this land. They have already
15 endured so much harm and colonization is
16 clearly still ongoing.

17 Not to mention building on or in a
18 wetland is not wise. It will be extremely
19 difficult to build anything on that land and
20 the risk of contamination of the fresh water
21 encompassing all of the surrounding wildlife
22 refuges and the Tonawanda Seneca Nation,
23 which relies on well water. And by the way,
24 that already happened. Just so you know, in
25 case you didn't know

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2 The Tonawanda Seneca Nation -- oh wait,
3 sorry. I already said that. Project like
4 this should never be built anywhere near
5 wetlands of this magnitude pristine old-
6 growth forest, wildlife preserves or next to
7 a native nation. There are no good reasons
8 for this to exist at the expense of all life
9 around it. I call upon the GCEDC to reject
10 all applications and permits on the STAMP
11 project and for the DEC and US Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, to conduct a full
13 environmental review and revoke all permits.

14 To quote a lyric from Bob Dylan -- to
15 quote a lyric from Bob Dylan, "All the money
16 you made will never buy back your soul."

17 HEARING MODERATOR: Jacob Clark. All
18 right.

19 MR. CLARK: We-- we're going to move this
20 guy over here.

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I won't be able to
22 hear you if you move that over.

23 MR. CLARK: Fair enough. Okay. Over here.

24 HEARING MODERATOR: Hold on one second.

25 MR. CLARK: Sure. this thing --

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2 HEARING MODERATOR: I'm just going to
3 help her real quick.

4 MR. CLARK: Yeah. We have to a-- do --
5 let's get this it in. Okay.

6 All right, set. Nice timer. Hello again,
7 everybody. My name is Jacob Clark. I am
8 Tonawanda Seneca Nation member. I'm a
9 resident of East Aurora, and again, I'm
10 reading on behalf of somebody who cannot
11 make it here for reasons previously
12 disclosed. I write -- I write to you. I'm
13 reading on behalf of the Interfaith Climate
14 Justice community, and it reads as such.

15 "Dear Mark Masse and GCEDC Board, we
16 write to you as people of faith. We are
17 parents, grandparent's grateful inhabitants
18 of the Great Lakes and people sustained by
19 our communities and the ecological diversity
20 of the western part of New York. We work to
21 protect the gift of creation and pass it on
22 to our children and future generations. We
23 therefore right to you to be clear that we
24 are opposed to any financial or other
25 incentives to Project Potentia, Project

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2 Rampart, and Project Double Reed at STAMP in
3 Genesee County.

4 We are opposed to your support of the
5 development of data centers at STAMP. Data
6 centers in general are highly problematic
7 because of high energy and water use the
8 negative impacts of noise and nearby
9 communities of wildlife, air pollution, and
10 water discharge just to name a few. We
11 assume as stewards of this project that
12 you're well aware of the dangers of putting
13 this type of use in the middle of one of the
14 largest complexes of wetlands east of the
15 Mississippi, directly adjacent to the
16 Tonawanda Seneca Nation's big woods and
17 close by rural and small-town communities.

18 This type of use will bring serious harm
19 to adjacent lands, wildlife, farms, animals,
20 and people. Part of your work is to surely -
21 - is to protect citizens from negative
22 health impacts.

23 Further, we see no indication that these
24 projects have been reviewed in light of the
25 CLCPA for climate impacts. Nor have

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2 consideration -- nor have considered, pardon
3 me, the New York State 30 by 30 goal of
4 protecting and preserving the 30 percent of
5 ecological functioning natural systems by
6 2030. We look forward to such reviews.

7 We repeat, we oppose any incentives for
8 these data centers, projects to include
9 Project Potentia, Project Rampart, and
10 Project Double Reed. Sincerely, Sister
11 Eileen O'Connor and Roger Cook. Thank you."

12 HEARING MODERATOR: Betty Pitcher.

13 MS. PITCHER: Hello, my name is Betty
14 Pitcher. I live in Lancaster, New York, but
15 till recently I left in East Aurora, where I
16 saw an article from Jacob Clark about the --
17 this issue and read some other materials.
18 So, I wrote a little paper about it.

19 "The Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
20 and the Tonawanda -- the Tonawanda Seneca
21 Nation must be -- must be protected. The
22 STAMP project would do great harm to this
23 area. It would be disastrous to the
24 Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the Iroquois
25 National Wildlife Refuge.

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2 STAMP is surrounded by four state and
3 federally protected areas and would border
4 the Tonawanda Seneca Nation's big woods. In
5 this area, there are wetlands, grasslands
6 and forests with its wildlife of birds and
7 other animals. There is cultural and
8 natural history and natural beauty.

9 Nature does not have a voice. It is up
10 to us to be that voice, to protect this very
11 special place by saying no to STAMP and its
12 irreparable damage.

13 We must be that voice to protect this
14 natural beauty. This is what makes New York
15 such a beautiful state." Thank you.

16 HEARING MODERATOR: Chris Murawski.

17 MR. MURAWSKI: Hi, my name is Chris
18 Murawski from Buffalo, New York. I'm going
19 to be reading comments from Michael Slosman.
20 Michael's name is M-I-C-H-A-E-L S-L-O-S-M-A-
21 N. And Michael lives in Akron, New York.

22 "Writing to express comments about the
23 proposed financial incentives being offered
24 by GECDL to Project Potentia. And I oppose
25 the proposed incentives for Project Potentia

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2 and the development of Project Potentia by
3 GCEDC.

4 While I can't be here today due to my
5 work schedule, I'm confident that many local
6 residents are speaking today about how this
7 project is both illegal and harmful to the
8 environment. I believe the ethics of this
9 project on the wider world are also worth
10 calling into question.

11 In order to power AI, data centers like
12 the one being proposed are necessary. AI
13 contributes to de-skilling jobs." And he
14 has a reference here for that to referencing
15 an article by Jacobin. "'The problem with
16 AI is about power, not technology wage
17 deflation,' and then has a reference to an
18 article in Forbes. 'Artificial Intelligence
19 has caused a 50 percent to 70 percent
20 decrease in wages, creating income
21 inequality, and threatening millions of
22 jobs, and intellectual property theft from
23 writers and artists.' And then has a
24 reference to a Reuters article. 'Open AI,
25 Microsoft hit new author, copyright lawsuit

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2 over AI training.' "

3 "Choosing to proceed with the
4 construction of this data center, will make
5 the world a worse place both locally and
6 globally. If this project proceeds, the
7 individuals who orchestrated it are
8 willingly complicit in all of this. For
9 everyone's sake, this project needs to be
10 abandoned. Thank you." And that's it.

11 HEARING MODERATOR: Jean Dixon.

12 MR. DIXON: Hi again. My name's Jean
13 Dixon, but I'm reading a message from the
14 grandmother's counsel of Niagara that is
15 signed by Linda Schneevaloth, S-C-H-N-E-E-A-
16 L-O-T-H. She's the convener of this
17 organization.

18 "The Grandmother's Council of Niagara is
19 concerned with the protection of life on
20 earth. It asks of all actions and practices
21 today. Will this action ensure that future
22 generations will have a thriving and
23 beautiful planet as home, a planet that has
24 been bequeathed to us from our ancestors.
25 We are concerned with the entire planet, but

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2 our home is Western New York, a rich and
3 fertile place with bountiful waters, rich
4 land, productive ecologies and diverse
5 communities of people. We respond to the
6 STAMP project and this particular use of
7 incentives from that perspective.

8 We are opposed to any financial and
9 other incentives for data centers, projects,
10 Potentia, Rampart, or Double Reed by GCEDC
11 at the STAMP site.

12 Further, we are opposed to the entire
13 STAMP project as it is injurious to the
14 lands, ecologies, waters, and peoples of
15 this region, especially the adjacent
16 community, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.

17 Within the terms outlined for the public
18 hearing, comments on incentives, it is
19 premature. We have not been informed of
20 what the incentives are, who the owners,
21 operators, and investors of the proposed
22 facilities are. Cost-benefit analyses have
23 not been done. Comprehensive and independent
24 studies of the impacts of a data center in
25 the area regarding noise, water impacts,

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2 electricity use on the areas, ecology and
3 residents have not been done on which to
4 make evaluations of impact. GCEDC has not
5 done the work to bring forward any request.
6 So, we respectfully request this work be
7 done and shared in another legal public
8 hearing schedule.

9 Further, the issues of incentives must
10 be framed within the context of \$410 million
11 in taxpayer subsidies and the fact that
12 crypto corporations were responsible for
13 nearly half of all total spending in the
14 past three election cycles. That's from
15 Public Citizen News, January, February 2025.
16 This dwarfs direct corporate spending by big
17 oil and other corporate sectors, and they're
18 asking for more taxpayer money within the
19 terms of place. Its ecologies, the climate
20 and species crisis specs are facing us at
21 this moment. This project makes no sense at
22 all. From the grandmother's perspective,
23 and I too am the grandmother, no public
24 investment should be made into something
25 like crypto, an unregulated financial game

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2 that offers no public benefits.

3 One could argue AI might be important,
4 although we survived only 15 years ago
5 without it. And most of its uses are not a
6 public benefit, but rather a public scam.
7 Further, there appears to be a new, much
8 less energy-intensive procedure now
9 available.

10 STAMP was initiated to support the
11 development of green manufacturing unquote
12 in New York State over 12 years ago. It has
13 not done this. One could argue it was a
14 good goal, but the project was poorly cited
15 in a rural landscape next to the largest
16 wetland complex, east of the Mississippi,
17 and adjacent to an environmental justice
18 community, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.

19 This is a critical moment we share on
20 this planet with the increasing weather-
21 related events and global systems, impact of
22 human-caused climate change and ongoing
23 rapid extinction of all species, it is time
24 to abandon the STAMP project. It has been
25 and continues to do harm. Other uses for

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2 this land might be a research development
3 project related to the restoration of
4 wetlands in the state. That would be a
5 public good," signed by the Grandmother's
6 Council of Niagara.

7 HEARING MODERATOR: Emmy Con? Christine
8 Abrams.

9 MS. ABRAMS: (Native Indian) on behalf of
10 the Tonawanda Seneca Nation council chief, I
11 extend greetings to you and your associates
12 to give thanks to all jury good health.

13 Next year round on Friday, January 24th,
14 that GCEDC is scheduled for today, February
15 3rd public carries on incentives to be
16 offered to the free data center projects
17 known as Hydro Scale, Potentia Rampart, and
18 Double Reed being concerned to locate at
19 STAMP.

20 Also, on January 24th, the Nation
21 requested more information from GCEDC about
22 the hearing, including information on what
23 incentives were being offered and what
24 companies would operate the data centers.

25 GCEDC did not provide the requested

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information on incentives until a full week later on the afternoon of January 31st. Just one business day prior to the hearings and to this day, has been identified, identified operators of the data centers. Under these circumstances, a separate public meeting should be scheduled. Neither the nation nor the journal public can be expected to weigh in on incentives on basic information about them is not available or not available well in advance of the hearing.

GCEDC must publicize the requested information and schedule a second hearing after the nation and the public has time to review it. Moreover, February 3rd falls during the nation the winter ceremonies meaning nation leaders are not able to attend this hearing. GCEDC did not consult with the Nation about timing of this meeting.

At this time, the nation provides the following preliminary comments and reserves the right to provide additional comments

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2 once it has reviewed, received, and reviewed
3 the information necessary to assess the true
4 cause and benefits of the proposed
5 incentives.

6 Incentives, public money should not go
7 to projects that threaten serious harm to
8 the nation, our environment, and our way of
9 life.

10 The state of New York took our land,
11 including the land where the data centers
12 would sit and our ancestors put lives -- put
13 their lives on the line to retain the small
14 piece of our territory there in remains
15 ours. Now, GCEDC is using state money and
16 county money to try to finish what the state
17 started centuries ago, destroying our land
18 for profit and threatening our way of life.

19 The Nation has raised preliminary
20 concerns about the impacts of the data
21 centers by letter to GCEDC dated January
22 30th, 2025, and hereby incorporates that
23 letter by reference.

24 The Nation has particularly concerned
25 that the -- that while General Municipal Law

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2 585-A5B, requires GCEDC to publish a written
3 cost-benefit analysis of the data center
4 projects that includes consideration of
5 renewable energy goals. No such analysis
6 has been provided in the cost of the
7 projects and their impact on the state's
8 renewable energy goals have not been yet
9 assessed. Only after assessing the
10 environmental impact of the projects in
11 Constitution with the Nation through the
12 State Environmental Quality Review Act,
13 SEQRA, can GCEDC compiled valid cost-benefit
14 analysis.

15 As the nation's January 30th letter,
16 2025 letter tests, these projects would take
17 a terrible toll on the environment and the
18 nation, and those costs must be considered.
19 For these reasons, the nation opposes
20 providing incentives to project Hydro Scale,
21 Potentia, Project Rampart, and or Project
22 Double Reed." That's all.

23 HEARING MODERATOR: Evelyn Wackett. I
24 waited until you got comfortable before I
25 called you. I waited for you to get

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2 comfortable.

3 MS. WACKET: Yeah, I saw that. All
4 right. We could be uncomfortable. I'm
5 uncomfortable talking in front of people,
6 but this thing's got me talking in front of
7 people.

8 Okay. So, first of all, I'm going to
9 say I'm opposed to any development at STAMP,
10 mainly because of the wetlands and the
11 effects on wildlife. So, everything that I
12 said before on the Project Rampart, you can
13 (inaudible) into this and then I'm going to
14 add. Some of the comments that were put on
15 the petition I came from Kaitlyn (phonetic).

16 These wetlands are such a vital part of
17 our local ecosystem. They provide natural
18 hunting grounds, hiking trails, wildlife
19 refuges and more. This area deserves to
20 thrive to preserve what we have left of a
21 resource that is shrinking. The destruction
22 of these lands would have a deep lasting
23 negative impact on our environment.

24 I have written down some notes about
25 World Wetlands Day, and I'm just going to

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2 read off these notes that I wrote down. The
3 wetlands are home to 40 percent of the
4 world's plant and animal species. Wetlands
5 absorb carbon dioxide aiding in cleaning
6 water and air. The wetlands are
7 disappearing three times faster than forests
8 due to pollution, development, and climate
9 change. Our wetlands are essential to the
10 earth's balance. And what I said earlier
11 today is that it creates habitat for
12 countless species seen and unseen. And you
13 know, you're not seeing the effect that
14 you're having on the environment, like the
15 little vernal pools and the things that
16 exist in the wetlands that we don't see
17 every day. And wetlands are very important
18 to all of us. And as I said earlier, we're
19 all connected. Water is life. We hurt our
20 water, we hurt ourselves." That's it.

21 HEARING MODERATOR: Madeline Negley?

22 Adrienne Yocina?

23 MS. YOCINA: I am nervous. My name's
24 Adrienne Yocina, A-D-R-I-E-N-N-E Y-O-C-I-N-
25 A. And I'm from Indian Falls. And I oppose

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2 all three sites, crypto mining as well as
3 STAMP. I'm not a landowner, I'm a renter,
4 but we live here too. And when land-owners
5 costs go up, it trickles right on down to
6 us. That's one thing that does trickle
7 down.

8 15 years ago, I moved here from
9 Pennsylvania. I've raised three boys here,
10 the youngest of which just swore into the
11 military yesterday. They had a chance to
12 play, fish, and get covered in mud. And
13 they had a great childhood here. And I'd
14 like everybody who lives in this area, their
15 kids and their grandkids to have the same
16 opportunity minded, which I'm very grateful
17 for.

18 When I first moved here from
19 Pennsylvania, my first time driving on to
20 Tonawanda Seneca Nation was jaw-dropping. I
21 had never seen -- my boys called them
22 prehistoric trees. You might be used to
23 seeing them here, but these woods don't
24 exist everywhere, and they're going to be
25 harder and harder to find.

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2 If you want an indication of how these
3 data centers will play out, you can look at
4 North Tonawanda in New York. The residents
5 there have described the noise as a hundred
6 times that of a jet engine. And with the
7 topography of Indian Falls, that will echo
8 further than you think.

9 This is one of the many reasons I
10 support the land back movement. I want the
11 health and safety of our indigenous
12 neighbors as well as others to be put first
13 before profit. They say past behavior as an
14 indication of future behavior.

15 HEARING MODERATOR: 30 seconds.

16 MS. YOCINA: The GCEDC you -- if you want
17 to know how they'll keep someone in check,
18 look at the apartment building on the corner
19 of Jackson and (inaudible) in Batavia.
20 Thank you. That's all.

21 HEARING MODERATOR: Scirto Gido
22 (phonetic).

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you please
24 spell your name, please? Sorry.

25 MR. GIDO: Oh, sure. It's S-C-I-R-T-O.

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2 I'm Scirto Gido. You've already heard from
3 me, but I'm going to read on the comments
4 from Shelby Green. She's a resident of
5 Shelby.

6 She says, "I'm a resident of the town of
7 Shelby, and I'm writing pursuant of General
8 Municipal Law 859 to oppose the proposed
9 financial incentives being offered by GCEDC
10 to Project Rampart. I'm glad that Article
11 181 of General Municipal Law requires GCEDC
12 host this hearing. As GCEDC's communication
13 with the community regarding STAMP, despite
14 GDECD's, aforementioned deception, data
15 centers have hugely significant negative
16 environmental impacts on their surroundings
17 that destroy and disrupt wildlife and hugely
18 decrease the quality of life for those who
19 live nearby. GCEDC has exhibited a gross
20 disregard for meaningful engagement with the
21 Tonawanda Seneca Nation, whose sovereign
22 land will be directly and negatively
23 impacted by the presence of a data center,
24 just feet away.

25 Not only is GCEDC's failure to

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2 communicate illegal, it's incredibly
3 disrespectful. The timing of this hearing
4 makes it clear that GCEDC has no interest in
5 holding an honest and accessible
6 conversation with the communities that will
7 be harmed by the presence of a data center.

8 GCEDC has not disclosed the identities
9 of the companies represented by data center
10 investor groups. Has failed to provide the
11 public with information regarding the
12 financial incentives being offered to the
13 three data centers and has not provided a
14 written cost-benefit analysis regarding jobs
15 and environmental impacts as required by
16 General Municipal Law.

17 Why should our community trust a company
18 that has entirely failed in its original
19 mission and will not share honest
20 information about the tenants? It is now
21 desperately trying to move in.

22 When they say that a data center will
23 benefit us. GCDC's Sneakiness and deception
24 regarding STAMP site makes clear that the
25 introduction of a data center simply

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2 responds to GCEDC's own failure and is not
3 something that will serve our community. I
4 demand GCEDC produce the written cost-
5 benefit analysis for Project Rampart,
6 disclose the identity of the owners and
7 operators of the projects, provide the
8 completed application required, complete a
9 noise study, follow the environmental
10 justice siting law, and schedule another
11 round of accessible public hearings."

12 These are the words of Shelby Green.
13 And I also did want to add, there was a
14 previous speaker who mentioned how
15 horrendous the timing of this was for
16 working folks, but also it mentioned the
17 Tonawanda Seneca Nation. They're in the
18 middle of their mid-winter ceremony, so this
19 is a very sacred time for them and they're
20 not able to be here.

21 We do have some of their members with
22 us, which acknowledge that they have led,
23 you know, the activism against STAMP from
24 the very beginning. And you know, we should
25 all be very thankful that they, you know,

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2 for thousands of years have been working to
3 protect Mother Earth and they continue doing
4 it to this day. We all should be following
5 their lead. You know, not coming in as sort
6 of outside parasites as I mentioned, to try
7 to, you know, take the resources and extract
8 wealth.

9 So, you know, if there was any I mean, I
10 almost wonder if GCEDC intentionally knew
11 that the midwinter ceremonies were currently
12 present and this was a way to, you know,
13 have our meeting -- it was essentially
14 without them. After all, they really have
15 never consulted the Tonawanda Seneca Nation
16 nor have the other companies involved and
17 even our government agencies have neglected
18 to consult with the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.
19 So this is a devastating legacy and it
20 cannot happen.

21 HEARING MODERATOR: Sarah Howard.

22 MS. HORWARD: Hi, my name is Sarah
23 Howard, H-O-W-A-R-D. I still live in
24 Syracuse, New York, and I'm here to tell you
25 why I completely and totally oppose the

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2 direction of \$124,864,000 in sales tax
3 exemptions and \$42,784,801 in property tax
4 exemptions. That is a total of 167,464,801
5 in taxpayer dollars, which equals out to
6 \$837 and -- these are such big numbers,
7 \$837,324 per job, any of that money going to
8 the crooks at Jones Lang and LaSalle, LLC,
9 who were the developers of Project Potentia.
10 And yes, they are crooks, if you Google the
11 name of that company, you'll find out that
12 they were fined in the fall of 2024 by the
13 Canadian government for money laundering.
14 And also in the same time they were -- they
15 paid \$8 million to settle a separate
16 securities fraud case in an American court.
17 And we all know how difficult it is as a
18 white-collar criminal in this country to be
19 convicted, so that really says something.

20 So, I'm going to tell you a little bit
21 about the slap dash and amateurish
22 environmental assessment form that they
23 submitted for Project Potentia, which used
24 to be called Project Hydro Scale, but then
25 mysteriously they changed the name. And I'm

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2 guessing it's because Hydro Scale sounds
3 like something that you don't want growing
4 inside your bathtub drain, but who knows?

5 So, if you if you listen to Mark
6 earlier, project Potentia is described as an
7 892,000-square-foot data center. But if you
8 click on the EAF on GCEDCs website and
9 scroll to page three, you'll see that the
10 total square footage is listed at 1.8
11 million, which is a really different number.
12 And the difference in those two numbers
13 might produce the feeling of being gaslit,
14 which is actually a relevant sensation for
15 Project Potentia because the EAF also claims
16 that this data center would use
17 approximately 1,284,000, 85,050 gallons of
18 diesel fuel per year and would store up to
19 700,000 gallons of diesel on site at any
20 given time. That is a lot of diesel fuel.

21 Do any of you want to live just
22 downstream of 700,000 gallons of stored
23 diesel fuel, as would be the case for the
24 citizens of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation
25 where potential to be built? I don't think

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2 so.

3 So, there are a lot of discrepancies in
4 the EAF. I've already named some of them.
5 Another really important one is that the
6 original air, sorry, the original EAF for
7 Project Potentia states that air permits
8 would be required. The revised one does
9 not, which is it? Do they need air permits
10 for 14,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year
11 or not? It doesn't really matter what they
12 think. We all know that CO2 is obnoxious
13 air pollutant and would have significant and
14 disproportionate impact on the citizens of
15 the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and other
16 neighbors. It's also a greenhouse gas.

17 Somewhere in the application --- the
18 original application, Potentia backers claim
19 that there would be no impacts to wetlands
20 and that a hundred percent of the soils on
21 site are well drained. We've heard that
22 this is absolutely not the case.

23 The application also contains concerning
24 information with no explanation. For
25 example, the site plans show water tanks

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2 holding nearly 2 million gallons of water
3 that would be required to serve the
4 facility. What are those for? My guess is
5 that they aren't for stormwater retention,
6 but they're for cooling the 28,000 gallons
7 of water per day that Potentia would pump
8 through their square footage of buildings.

9 Potentia states that the project will
10 include no impoundments, but it names onsite
11 storm water retention, what -- via ponds,
12 which is it? Are there ponds or no ponds?
13 What are they for?

14 And I want to make sure that other
15 people have time to speak. We've already
16 been here for a really long time, and it's
17 very clear that no one in this room wants
18 any public money to go to project Potentia
19 and that there's absolutely no public
20 benefit to be found in their project. Thank
21 you so much.

22 HEARING MODERATOR: Hilka Salsbury.

23 MS. SALSURY: Thank you. Hilka Salsbury,
24 town of Alabama, grateful and humble
25 resident of the Tonawanda Seneca's

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2 traditional lands. I -- for the record, I
3 don't think I said this in the last time I
4 spoke, but I want it to be made clear that I
5 pose any proposed financial incentives for
6 all three projects, Potentia, Rampart, and
7 Double Reed. And I agree with all those
8 that have spoken so far. Thank you.

9 HEARING MODERATOR: James Burnett.

10 MR. BURNETT: Mr. Chairman, at this time
11 I wish to yield my three minutes to whoever
12 wants to go overtime.

13 HEARING MODERATOR: Okay.

14 MR. BURNETT: Thank you.

15 HEARING MODERATOR: Thank you. Margaret
16 Wooster?

17 MS. WOOSTER: Well, I do have a letter
18 from the same 57 organizations that signed
19 on to this letter and coordinated by and
20 helped write this letter by the -- by the
21 allies of Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the
22 Western New York Environmental Alliance.
23 I'm going to give you that letter, but I
24 also want to add, I've sort of done a
25 compilation from this in all of our letters

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2 because I can't stay for the next.

3 That speaks to things that have been
4 said in this room today. So where are we
5 today with STAMP? Well, we've Schumer and
6 Hochul, we had their vision of a microchip
7 corridor across New York State centered by
8 STAMP. And that's not happening. We're not
9 going to have that. The microchip thing
10 isn't going to happen here at STAMP. And
11 so, you know, Mr. Masse and Company have the
12 task of finding out, okay, who can they get?

13 So, Plug Power, Plug Power was one of
14 the first to develop there. They have their
15 two concrete mushrooms out there. But they,
16 you know, they've been paused for -- I don't
17 know, five years or something-- a while. And
18 apparently Plug Power has gotten an
19 incentive from the federal government, but
20 not necessarily this Plug Power. So, it's
21 pretty -- it's pretty iffy whether Plug
22 Power is going to continue.

23 And part of -- part of the reason for
24 that is because a state smart growth study
25 done in 2013 found STAMP site for this type

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2 of, you know, to be a mega industrial
3 manufacturing center. It ranked it as
4 absolute worst in the state because of
5 location inefficiency, location
6 inefficiency. You, you know, it's distance
7 from markets, it's distance from labor, it's
8 distance from infrastructure, location
9 inefficiency. So, it's not a good site even
10 financially if you believed that these
11 financial things that we're dealing with
12 were good.

13 Meanwhile, people have mentioned today
14 this 30 by 30 goal that we have. And the 30
15 by 30 goal, just want to elaborate on that.
16 What is it? It's a goal that our Governor
17 Hochul has signed on to, Biden signed on to,
18 the Canadian premier has signed on to. It's
19 30 percent natural lands and waters by 2030.
20 It's a policy, a goal. And it's based on a
21 scientific research that says in the lower
22 48 states, we're at 5 percent of natural
23 land and water left, 5 percent, which is --

24 HEARING MODERATOR: 30 seconds, but
25 you've got the three minutes if you want.

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2 MS. WOOSTER: Okay. Astonishing to me.
3 And this is according to scientists like
4 E.O. Wilson who wrote these incredible books
5 on insects and Doug Tallamy, who's written
6 about plants and vegetation, 5 percent left
7 of, of the natural world in the lower 48
8 states.

9 So how can we afford to look at the land
10 where STAMP is going to be built as vacant
11 land? I mean, that is how the approach of
12 our, you know, of Genesee County government
13 the Genesee County Economic Development
14 Center is, hey, this is vacant land. We can
15 do anything we want with it. Whereas
16 everybody in this room has spoken eloquently
17 to what is there, the Tonawanda Seneca
18 nation, the wildlife refuges. And there's
19 also at least two plants for a wildlife
20 corridor across the United States as a sort
21 of climate change, you know, help to
22 migrating wildlife that includes the STAMP
23 campus and all of this because of the
24 refugees and so forth. So this is on the
25 maps as part of a Mexico to Maine wildlife

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2 corridor. So, people are thinking about
3 this.

4 So, we've long said through Western
5 American Environmental Alliance, rethink
6 STAMP, it's time to rethink STAMP, you have
7 to move away from this vacant land model,
8 which is what got us into trouble in the
9 first place, settler mentality. And yeah,
10 you got to give that up and build on, or at
11 least first recognize the beauty and health
12 and importance of what's already here. And
13 also, of the Tonawanda Seneca because the
14 beauty in health and resilience of what's
15 already here is not necessarily just because
16 these things happen to be here, but it's
17 also because of the stewardship of this
18 community of people that has lasted for
19 centuries in this spot and respects the fact
20 that there is this kind of life here.

21 And so, we're fortunate to have the
22 Tonawanda Seneca and all of the results of
23 this kind of caretaking and why would we --
24 would we mess that up.

25 So, I just want to say that I'm hearing

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2 more stop the STAMP, yes, but I'm also
3 hearing more rethink STAMP and I think
4 there's a whole lot of opportunities for you
5 to rethink what could happen there that
6 would be much more agreeable to everyone in
7 the room and probably much better for the
8 planet and Genesee County. Thank you.

9 HEARING MODERATOR: Do you want to give
10 me the later or --

11 MS. WOOSTER: Oh, yeah.

12 HEARING MODERATOR: Okay. Gary Ciurczak.

13 MR. CIURCZAK: Hello, my name is Gary
14 Ciurczak, and today I'm reading on behalf of
15 Dave Giacherio of Kent, New York, G-I-A-C-H-
16 E-R-I-O, to the members of the GCEDC.

17 "The comments below refer to the three
18 proposals, Potential, Rampart and Double
19 Reed, to construct data centers on the STAMP
20 site. I'm writing to express the -- about
21 the -- to give my comments about the
22 proposed financial incentives being offered
23 by GCEDC to the three projects. I'm
24 commenting as an individual and not as a
25 representative of any group or association.

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2 I have no conflict of interest in this
3 issue, and I believe my comments are
4 acceptable under Article 18-1 of the General
5 Municipal Law.

6 My understanding is that there are three
7 firms competing to build a gigantic data
8 processing center at the STAMP site. As you
9 know, AI and Cloud computing technology is
10 surging ahead, quince the need for huge new
11 data centers.

12 AI, though incredibly powerful, requires
13 tremendous amounts of computing power, which
14 in turn requires tremendous amounts of
15 electricity and cooling water for the data
16 center. What a data center does not require
17 is a large number of workers. To be sure,
18 building a data center on the STAMP site
19 makes eminent sense to the corporations
20 proposing to build it.

21 It's in a rural area with few neighbors
22 to complain about the noise. It comes with
23 a promise of cheap electricity and cheap
24 plentiful water. It likely comes with huge
25 tax abatement abatements. And there is no

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2 need to worry about a lack of housing for
3 the labor force because the labor force will
4 be so small. It's an ideal situation for the
5 corporation, a clear win. The problem is
6 that it's not a win-win situation. From the
7 viewpoint of other stakeholders, like the
8 people of New York, especially those living
9 near the site, it's far from ideal.

10 Years ago, at its inception, STAMP was
11 pitched to the public by the GCEDC and the
12 governor and Senator Schumer as a job-
13 creating entity. It has not lived up to
14 that promise. In my opinion, the mere fact
15 that people are considering their current
16 proposals for the data center with its high
17 demand for infrastructure and minimal labor
18 force is tantamount to an admission of
19 failure for the GCEDC and its job-creating
20 message.

21 In summary, for reasons outlined above,
22 which I believe to be compelling, the
23 construction of a data center at the STAMP
24 site is not in the best interests of the
25 people of New York and should not be

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2 approved.

3 Therefore, I oppose the proposed
4 incentives for any of these projects, and I
5 oppose the development of any of the three
6 projects by the GCEDC.

7 Furthermore, I recommend that the GCEDC
8 take a long hard look at STAMP itself and
9 consider this possibility after years of
10 offering huge incentives and getting so few
11 takers, maybe there's something
12 fundamentally wrong with STAMP."

13 HEARING MODERATOR: Diane Ciurczak.

14 MS. CIURCZAK: My name is Diane Ciurczak.
15 I spoke before. I live in Buffalo, New
16 York. I just wanted to add a couple more
17 pro comments since I rushed through my
18 earlier statements.

19 I -- speaking on behalf of the Sierra
20 Club, the Atlantic chapter that represents
21 that his membership of 37,000 people across
22 the State. I want to reiterate a couple
23 things.

24 Many people here have spoken about the
25 Climate Leadership and Community Protection

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2 Act, the Environmental Justice Siting Law,
3 and the General Municipal Law. I just want
4 to stress; these are not discretionary. You
5 don't get to comply with them if you feel
6 like it, but not if you don't.

7 This project, if you look at it, if any
8 way you look at it, is in violation of all
9 of those laws as well as an insult to the
10 community and to the states. I'd also like
11 to say that we're -- just for the record, we
12 are opposing Project Potentia, Project
13 Rampart, Project Double Reed in any
14 development, industrial development at
15 STAMP.

16 The idea that suggested -- that is being
17 suggested that this is not money that's
18 actually being spent out of state money, but
19 it's actually sales tax abatements that will
20 be off into the future, is the wrong way to
21 look at it.

22 Number one, we are investing money where
23 we can see the money pouring in from the
24 state to build the infrastructure to keep
25 the GCEDC going, to keep the STAMP project

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going, which I believe is up to \$400 million at this point, but we're still -- you're still proposing to build sewer lines and water lines and all this other stuff.

Secondly, these companies didn't actually put into their application how much money they're seeking. They're actually desperate to find people or communities that will host them, and there's no need to offer them anything. It is crazy that we are -- that GCEDC or we, the State of New York are trying to induce them to come in here when they are regarded around the world and they're so as a nuisance, and in fact they have been thrown out of at least one country and they have to hide behind non-disclosure agreements, which you may have actually signed, and other ways third parties and real estate development companies. So, nobody knows who -- what is really going to happen to their community, but communities are finding out and they're talking about it. And anybody's -- already even said, anybody who wants to research these can find

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2 out how bad they are.

3 So, I just wanted to just make that
4 point. I urge you to think differently
5 about what is happening here. Basically,
6 you're take -- being taken for suckers to
7 basically why then come here when nobody
8 wants them. It makes no sense. Thank you.

9 HEARING MODERATOR: Joseph O'Malley.

10 MS. O'MALLEY: My name is Joseph
11 O'Malley. I live on unseated Seneca land on
12 the banks of the Niagara River. I'm an
13 ecologist and evolutionary biologist with
14 training in both ornithology and wetland
15 biology. And I've come here today to oppose
16 the financial incentives proposed to be
17 offered to any data center by the GCEDC,
18 including those offered to project Potentia,
19 Rampart, or double Reed. These subsidies
20 and tax incentives are a slap in the face to
21 my generation who will inevitably be left to
22 clean up the mess created by any one of
23 these projects.

24 The GCEDC's misuse of lands meant to
25 advance green regional economic development

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2 is a shame. We here in the Rust Belt are
3 surrounded by the corpses of industries,
4 gone by and likewise by the legacy of
5 ecological destruction of our land, air, and
6 water. We have not heard a single public
7 comment in favor of these incentives. Not
8 one. I'd venture to guess that this is
9 because those people who stand to benefit
10 from our -- these data centers financially
11 are not part of our community. They do not
12 care about us.

13 We are already living in climate
14 catastrophe. During heat waves, we already
15 lose power leading to dangerous heat
16 exposure and illness. These data centers in
17 the event of such power outage switched to
18 diesel out power generators.

19 In heat waves, ground-level ozone, which
20 causes respiratory distress in humans and
21 animals, especially those of us unlucky
22 enough to be affected by things like asthma
23 and long COVID is already high.

24 Burning fossil fuels such as those
25 generated by the data center generators is

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known to increase air pollution that damages our ability to breathe. No number of jobs is worth my life.

These data centers would also use massive amounts of water taken from the Niagara River as well as other sources and many of these waters are already unfishable, un-swimmable, undrinkable, and unlivable for us and our more than human relatives.

The industrial runoff, hydrological disruptions, and heated water discharge from the data center would create decades more work for those of us already working to remediate those impacts from prior industries. More work I imagine than the 150 jobs that these data centers purport to create.

We can create more than 150 jobs by remediating the STAMP site now. Clean up the messes that already exist and make the choice to listen to the Towanda Seneca Nation and their allies. If goodwill and self-preservation are not motivation and not for this body, including you, Mr. Masse, to

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2 oppose financial incentivizing the eco side
3 of our region, then consider the legality of
4 this project.

5 Do you truly want to spend time and
6 money defending proposals that violate the
7 Environmental Justice Siting Law, the
8 Climate Leadership and Community Protection
9 Act, and most importantly, the sovereignty
10 of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and their
11 land stewardship since time immemorial? I
12 should hope not.

13 As you can see, if the GCEDC chooses to
14 continue entertaining these proposals, you
15 will be met with opposition from every one
16 of us. And I swear on all that is wholly,
17 if you consider adding data centers or any
18 other industrial development on this land to
19 an agenda in the future as a viable economic
20 development option, I'm bringing all my
21 friends, and we will be here for hours
22 having a lap at your expense. Have a good
23 one.

24 HEARING MODERATOR: I think. We'll --
25 that'll end the Potential Holding's public

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hearing, and we'll move into STREAM U.S data centers. Give you two minutes?

(Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Suzanne Saeed Tacker, do hereby certify that I have reported in voice court reporting the proceedings in the matter of the Public Hearing Pursuant to New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law Section 203 Regarding STAMP Sewer Works Corporation aka STAMP Sewer Works, Inc., at the Alabama Volunteer Fire Department, 2230 Judge Road, Alabama, New York, on July 27, 2023.

That the transcript herewith is a true, accurate and complete record of my voice court reporting software.

Suzanne Saeed Tacker, CCR

Certified Court Reporter

License No. 6471-8356-4904-8576