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PRESS RELEASE ([link to press release](http://www.aila.ngo) at www.aila.ngo)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Labor, Environmental, and Social Justice Groups Call on Micron to Protect Workers and Communities

*Following Draft Environmental Impact Statement Release, CNY Advocates Push for 120-Day
Public Comment Period and Launch “Community Vision” for Micron*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (June 26, 2025) - At a press conference today, 16 community groups delivered a petition with over 1,600 signatories to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) requesting a longer and more inclusive public input process on Micron Technology’s plan in Central New York (CNY). These groups also announced their concerns in a new [*Community Vision for Strong Environmental, Resident, and Worker Protections*](#), which they are encouraging community members to endorse. The press conference followed yesterday’s release of the [*Micron Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)*](#) by the U.S. Department of Commerce and OCIDA.

CNY organizations came together to call on the Department of Commerce and OCIDA to mandate conditions on Micron to minimize health, safety and environmental harms; protect workers; and maximize equitable quality-of-life and socioeconomic benefits to communities impacted by Micron’s development in CNY.

Speakers emphasized the need for everyone impacted to have an opportunity to review and provide input on Micron’s \$100 billion plan — the largest industrial development project in New York state history and the largest microchip fabrication facility in U.S. history. Micron is receiving \$5.5 billion in New York’s Green CHIPS Act subsidies and [up to \\$20 billion in total public](#) subsidies.

With this historic investment, Micron has promised investments and thousands of good jobs for CNY, but Micron has not made any enforceable commitments to workers or communities. The groups address this gap in the [*Community Vision for Strong Environmental, Resident, and Worker Protections*](#), developed with local community organizations and leaders with expertise in public policy, environmental law, workforce development and safety, environmental and chemical science, energy technology and infrastructure, and housing and transportation equity.

The DEIS document released yesterday aims to assess Micron's impacts across numerous areas including environmental health, public health and safety, socioeconomic needs, and air and water quality. However, officials have stated that [*they only intend to give the federal minimum of 45 days*](#) for public comment. Press conference speakers encouraged people to submit comments to the lead agencies right away to request a 120-day public comment period on the Micron DEIS. They also asked supporters to look soon for more guidance on making more substantive comments from local leaders who are closely reviewing the DEIS.

Featured speakers at the press conference included:

- Catherine Landis, plant ecologist, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Don Hughes, chemistry professor at Le Moyne College and member of Sierra Club Central and Northern New York
- Madeline Nyblade, assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Science, SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Mbonimpa Banabas, IUE-CWA Union Local 320
- Tim Judson, Board Chair and Co-Founder, Alliance for a Green Economy

Community members raised their concerns:

"Given the massive scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, with 10,000 pages of appendices, 45 days is grossly inadequate for community members to participate in the public review process. Enough time must be provided for the public to not only review and understand these impacts, but to submit comments that public officials will use to inform project permitting decisions. To fast-track this environmental review process is to risk massive pollution from forever chemicals like PFAS and other harms that cannot be undone. We do not want another toxic pollution disaster that even comes close to or exceeds the damage done to Onondaga Lake by industrial manufacturers." - Hilary-Anne Coppola, Community Organizer, SustainCNY

"GreeningUSA encourages everyone in Central New York to voice their concerns to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency about any of the many issues contained in the Micron Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including water quality, energy, pollution, natural resource impacts, housing, transportation and environmental justice. These are the issues that affect our short-term quality of life and ultimately the long-term ability of Central New York to thrive." - John Prezpiora, President and Director, GreeningUSA

"It's called an "industrial park", but in fact, it is 1000 plus acres of wetlands, forest, and grassland comparable to natural areas on protected State lands. Any wetland mitigation plan must take this larger

context into account. These are high quality wetlands that harbor endangered species such as bats. Dozens of other kinds of native plants and animals live here, from monarch and viceroy butterflies, to amphibians, reptiles, and over 100 different kinds of birds. Northern Harrier (Threatened, NYS) and Short Eared Owl (Endangered, NYS) have been sighted here. This is the biggest single industrial development in New York State history, and at least a quarter of its funding is public money. Therefore, the agencies need to hold Micron to the highest possible standards, for example requiring a much higher wetland replacement ratio—somewhere between 5-10 to 1.” - Catherine Landis, Science Advisor, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

“Micron's semiconductor plant to be built in Clay represents a major opportunity to boost the region's economy, and to create a world-class facility that does not endanger workers, or burden the community with toxic air and water pollution — and it should be run with clean, renewable power. We call on Micron and the sponsoring agencies that are showering the project with billions in subsidies, to create a project that advances cutting-edge technologies to eliminate toxic chemicals, safeguard the health of workers and the environment, and avoid reliance on expensive, toxic nuclear energy.” - Don Hughes, Sierra Club Central and Northern New York

“Jobs to Move America is working alongside Central New York partners like Urban Jobs Task Force to ensure the jobs created by the Micron project meet the standard of ‘good job’ this community deserves — especially those who have been historically left out of these types of economic opportunities. Central New Yorkers deserve high-paying, family-sustaining jobs where workers have a voice in the job. They deserve equitable investments in workforce development and a commitment to hire locally and create high-quality training opportunities, especially for historically disadvantaged people. And they deserve solid protections for the community and the environment.” - Khadeejah Ahmad, Syracuse Organizing Manager, Jobs to Move America

"Micron's projected energy usage — equal to the state of Vermont and New Hampshire combined — is unprecedented in the history of Onondaga County. Given the dangers presented by runaway climate change, it is imperative that Micron live up to its commitment of 100% renewable energy for electricity and use as little fossil fuel as possible. The technologies of wind and solar farms, hydro, electric heat pumps for heating and cooling are all currently in operation. It is a question of political will by county, state and Micron officials. We hope that, along with good paying jobs, Micron will commit to providing a safe environment for future generations.” - Peter Wirth, Vice President, Climate Change Awareness & Action

“The Micron development will be massive, about twice the size of the Syracuse University main campus. The soon-to-be developed land is currently wetlands, forests and fields. These cover types allow water to seep into the ground, as well as return to the air through plants. With Micron, this area will be developed into industrial facilities, parking lots, buildings, offices and warehouses. While restoration is planned elsewhere to make up for the wetlands lost on the Micron site, these restored wetlands will not mitigate flooding directly downstream of Micron. To help reduce the impact of Micron on our water: Micron could limit runoff and increase recharge areas and natural habitats on their site; release little to no PFAS into the downstream water; and increase the acres of wetlands protected and restored.” - Maddy Nyblade, Assistant Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

"Micron will have major impacts on the costs and reliability of electricity in CNY. It will be the largest energy consumer in New York State and will require CNY to import electricity for the first time in nearly a century. Micron's draft EIS states that it will force New York to miss our climate emissions goals because it is not planning to develop enough renewable energy. This is unacceptable. New York State law requires Micron to use 100% renewable energy, in exchange for billions of dollars in subsidies. If Micron does not do that, energy costs and air pollution in CNY could skyrocket as a direct result. On the other hand, Micron could spur the renewable energy industry in CNY, creating thousands more jobs and spreading economic development to communities throughout the region. If Micron wants to be a good neighbor, then it needs to obey the law, avoid polluting our air and water, and take responsibility for its energy needs." - Tim Judson, Board Chair and Co-Founder, Alliance for a Green Economy

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[Press conference livestream video](#)

[SustainCNY to McMahon: We need more time to comment on Micron report
\(Guest Opinion\)](#)

[Send a comment today requesting at least 120 days
to review Micron environmental document](#)

Sign on to [Community Vision for Strong Environmental, Resident and Worker Protections:
Micron Environmental Review](#)

We, local CNY environmental, workforce, community, and public health and safety organizations, call on the US Department of Commerce and the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency to impose the following conditions on Micron Technology to maximize equitable quality-of-life benefits to communities impacted by Micron's development in Central New York (CNY) and minimize the health, safety, socioeconomic, and environmental harms of Micron's state and federally subsidized project.

Public Health and Safety, Environmental Health, and Resource Justice

Protect communities' health & safety from toxic chemicals used to make microchips-
Micron must not pollute our air, soil, fish & wildlife, and drinking water with any of the hundreds of chemicals used in their production process, including toxic ones such as PFAS

(“forever chemicals”). Micron must commit to maintaining clean water, soil, and air and performing best practices to handle toxic chemicals and waste including minimizing its use of toxic chemicals.

Limit immediate and long-term environmental harms and care for impacted land, water, and wildlife - Micron must ensure that their mitigation plan adequately replaces the valuable wetlands habitat, watershed, and habitat for multiple endangered species that the project will destroy, and minimizes negative impacts to native species and ecological communities.

Commit to affordability and abundance of energy & clean water for communities - Micron must ensure that their massive energy and water use does not affect the affordability and abundance of energy and clean water in Central New York or elsewhere. The costs of infrastructure upgrades and higher energy demand to benefit Micron is not the responsibility of ratepayers.

Generate renewable energy and minimize contributions to the global climate emergency - To meet Micron’s 100% renewable energy commitment and the NY State requirement to significantly mitigate the factories’ greenhouse gas emissions, the company must create a comprehensive plan to generate or purchase new renewable energy using wind, solar, and grid and storage infrastructure - without relying on the purchase of renewable energy credits.

Jobs Access, Workforce Development, and Equitable & Safe Workplace

Commit to a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible workplace and a family-sustaining compensation package - Micron must commit to measures such as pay equity and transparency, fair schedules, child care and other supportive services, inclusion and anti-bias training, and protections against discrimination and harassment in order to ensure accessibility for and retention of women, people of color and other marginalized populations. Micron must also commit to ongoing training and professional growth of employees to ensure equitable promotion and advancement in a highly technical work environment.

Guarantee equity in hiring practices and workforce development - Micron must guarantee that a meaningful percentage of new hires come from marginalized local communities, particularly within the City of Syracuse, so that those who need good jobs the most have access to them. Micron must create a workforce development process focused on census tracts with the highest concentration of poverty in the CNY region. Micron must also commit to workforce development and hiring policies and programs free of access barriers such as GED requirements, English language proficiency requirements, and discrimination against workers impacted by the criminal legal system.

Ensure safe working conditions for workers - A good job is a safe job. Micron must commit to keep workers, their families, and community members safe from toxic chemicals by implementing state-of-the-art health and safety protocols to protect workers and their families, especially from exposure to large quantities of toxic chemicals used during production.

Housing and Transportation Justice and Equity

Invest in public transportation infrastructure to ensure Micron's facility is accessible to all CNY residents - Micron has a responsibility to the people of CNY and its own workers to invest in transportation services and infrastructure that will support safe, reliable, and low-emissions transportation such as electric buses and trains to and from their proposed factories—a location which is not currently accessible by public transportation—as well as to other areas in the region which are inaccessible to impoverished populations. No matter what other commitments Micron might make to hiring workers from local disadvantaged communities, these jobs and the local socioeconomic benefits projected by Micron's development will not be accessible to transit-dependent people if convenient, reliable, affordable, and safe transportation is not available.

Invest in affordable, safe, and secure housing for existing and new residents - Micron will have a significant impact on housing needs as the number of employees grows. Therefore, a cooperative effort between Micron and state and county government agencies is needed to expand the availability of mixed income affordable, climate friendly, and safe housing. This includes the protection of existing affordable housing, expanding code compliance to protect tenants, and ensure appropriate capital maintenance upgrades. Affordable housing must include state of the art climate friendly designs which rely on renewable energy, and allow for affordable, low-cost energy. Without strong commitments from Micron to protect and expand safe and affordable housing in CNY, and particularly within the city of Syracuse, the project will only exacerbate the problems in an already inequitable housing market.

A Petition to Request Extension of the Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was submitted to OCIDA on June 26th, 2025. Petition information below:

Micron is planning the largest development project in NY State history. This petition requests 5 public hearings in Central New York and 120 days for public comments on the Micron Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a document thousands of pages long. [Sign here](#) by June 20th, 2025.

Before Micron can break ground in the town of Clay, US law requires a DEIS to be released for

public review. Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency and US Department of Commerce, the lead environmental review agencies for this Micron project, are giving us only 45 days, beginning June 25th. **The DEIS process is the last opportunity for impacted communities to influence decisions on Micron's four proposed factories.**

The \$100-billion project relies on over \$25 billion in taxpayer funding and would:

- provide 4,000+ construction jobs and up to 9,000 permanent jobs
- significantly increase housing needs in CNY
- use hundreds of chemicals– many of them highly toxic such as PFAS (“forever chemicals”)
- generate 5 million tons of carbon dioxide and many other air pollutants every year
- use 48 million gallons of water every day (more than the entire city of Syracuse)
- use as much electricity as Vermont and New Hampshire together
- destroy 204 acres of wetlands which prevent flooding and 300 acres of forest habitat for endangered bats and birds
- require major infrastructure upgrades, including water treatment, emergency services, roads and public transportation, renewable energy and storage, affordable housing, and hazardous/toxic waste management

45 days is far too little time for the public to prepare comments for a project as massive as Micron, which will affect virtually all aspects of life in Central New York. Its impacts will be much larger than the ongoing work on I-81, which included dozens of public meetings, info sessions, and many months for public comment.

Comments from Petition Signatories:

- “I was involved with the Onondaga Lake Partnership for over 3 decades. We need a similar partnership of federal, state, county and local community groups to participate in the overall Micron project evaluation over the full period of its development.”
- “We need the full 120 days and 5 public hearings in order to really address the scope and potential negative impact on the environment of this massive development project-- even though it will boost the economy, we have to plan for unintended consequences to the natural world as well as any other economic and social effects.”
- “The public comment period of 45 days is simply not enough. Central New Yorkers need a reasonable period of time to weigh in on environmental effects of this project that may impact the health and wellbeing of our citizens. If Micron is confident that its DEIS is solid, they should welcome the additional comment period to create goodwill with the community.”

A public statement by John Przepiora, President GreeningUSA, Inc. regarding:
Housing a growing CNY, the proposed Micron development, and why more than 45 days
are needed for public review of the DEIS (Release date: June 26, 2025)

We know from government agencies and recent news reporting that:

The Micron complex, and the growth it would spur, “would generate housing demand at a scale not experienced since the 1970s,” ⁽¹⁾ that,

“residential and commercial growth spurred by Micron could bring up to 64,000 new residents to the region.” ⁽¹⁾ And, assuming the Micron development occurs as planned, the number of households in the county could grow by an estimated 25,000 by 2040. ⁽²⁾

In a recent column by Professor of city and regional planning at Cornell, Sara Bronin advises:

“There's literally *no room* for them [e.g., workers and families] to move here *because almost everywhere around the new Micron facility, restrictive zoning laws make it nearly impossible to build the types of housing that tech workers want and need in the places they would most likely want to live.*” ⁽³⁾

Sadly, the county of Onondaga is rushing into the Micron development without much public engagement and input on these issues.

Without new housing options, we will see an upward pressure on housing prices. And while upward pressure on property values may be beneficial for the famously depressed city of Syracuse housing stock, and thereby increasing reinvestment to stabilize its condition, the impact of rising housing costs would challenge residents of Syracuse where 30% are living below the poverty line and where many already pay 50% or more of their income for housing; housing that is substandard and often inadequate. ⁽⁴⁾ Fixed income residents, including seniors, and persons of color, will undoubtedly face disproportionate cash flow problems as rents and property taxes rise beyond their ability to pay.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

We must find ways to create new affordable, safe, and secure housing; and substantially upgrade existing stock; and we must protect existing residents from the rising costs of housing they can ill afford.

Housing impacts will begin to be felt as soon as 2026 when thousands of construction workers look for housing. But Micron's construction, its operations and its employees will not only have

an impact on housing availability, but Micron will also have a significant impact on the climate crisis, in which we are now living, with massive increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

A cooperative effort between Micron and the state and county governments is needed to expand the availability of housing that is not only safe, healthy, affordable and climate friendly. We must create housing opportunities which rely on renewable energy, which is also a more affordable utility option in the long run.

Without strong commitments from Micron, NYS and Onondaga County to expand safe and affordable housing in CNY, including the city of Syracuse, the project will only exacerbate the housing and climate problems in an already inequitable and environmentally unjust housing market.⁽⁵⁾

Micron's development presents an opportunity to improve CNY's housing and transition housing to lower cost renewable energy; but only if the right choices are made and the public demands no less.

This is why I have demanded that adequate time be provided to the public for review and comment on the DEIS, and why I urge all county residents to demand the same. I also urge the County to engage with residents about these issues, and to assure us that the Micron development will meet our needs, and not exacerbate our housing and climate problems.

Sources cited or informing this statement:

1. [Exclusive: Micron report details lasting impacts to Central NY: jobs, traffic, population, pollution - syracuse.com](#)
2. Housing Onondaga Needs Assessment [OnondagaExecutive- Summary singles.pdf](#)
3. [Make room for Micron with region-wide zoning compact \(Guest Opinion by Sara Bronin\) - syracuse.com](#)
4. [SyracuseHousingStrategy_FINALSept2024_spreads.pdf | Powered by Box](#)
5. [Sign-On Form -- Community Vision for Strong Environmental, Resident, & Worker Protections: Micron Environmental Review](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clay Town Hall - [Register here](#)

- When: Wednesday, July 2, 6:30PM
- Where: Town Hall building in Clay | 4401 NY-31, Clay, NY 13041

Public Hearing - The lead agencies are hosting an in person public hearing for public comment. We are encouraging the public to attend these hearings to raise their voices.

- When: Thursday, July 24th, 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, and 6-9pm

- Where: Liverpool High School, 4338 Wetzel Road Liverpool | New York 13090
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ABOUT US

We are local CNY environmental, workforce, community, and public health and safety organizations calling on Micron to minimize harms and maximize equitable quality-of-life benefits to communities impacted by Micron's development in Central New York (CNY).

[SustainCNY](#) consists of local, grassroots organizations who each have some specialty expertise in matters that are part of any community. What we all have in common is seeing the CNY region not just achieve sustainability, but to truly thrive in a balanced and holistic manner. Based on the shared backgrounds of these organizations, a recognized need for educating the public, and the desire to support the positive aspects of the highly anticipated Micron project, the SustainCNY Coalition has been created. Our primary objective is to educate people on the facts, issues, and progress of the Micron project including impacts on CNY and the role of government. In that regard, we mainly exist to educate citizens and coalition organizations so they will be empowered to advocate for themselves or join with others to provide appropriate public feedback and input.

[Jobs to Move America](#) (JMA) is a strategic policy center that works to transform public spending and corporate behavior using a comprehensive approach that is rooted in racial and economic justice and community organizing. We seek to advance a fair and prosperous economy with good jobs and healthier communities for all.

[Urban Jobs Task Force](#) (UJTF) is a dynamic coalition of organizations and residents of Syracuse and Onondaga County. We are friends, neighbors, businesspeople, and community-minded advocates. We are deeply troubled by the lack of access to job opportunities for Syracuse residents and the poverty that results from it. We work effectively to combat poverty by advocating for job training and opportunities for Syracuse's unemployed and underemployed workers, especially minorities. We firmly believe that publicly subsidized economic development (tax breaks for developers) should provide equal economic opportunities for all residents and improve the well-being of all our neighborhoods. We fight for dignity in local economic policy!