

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

December 8, 2025

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to express our support for your recent decision to approve the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) project. We are climate and clean energy researchers and advocates. Although our organizations remain committed to the long-term transition towards zero-carbon technologies like renewables and nuclear, we see NESE as a pragmatic and advisable step in delivering energy abundance and reducing carbon emissions.

A clean energy future is the goal. In the meantime, as you sagely noted, we must “govern in reality.” And projects like the NESE pipeline can alleviate the burden of rising energy costs and help mitigate climate change. A [recent analysis](#) found that the pipeline would save New Yorkers \$6.5 billion in energy costs between 2028 and 2042. Even with expanded natural gas supply and use, carbon emissions are expected to decline as well. This is partly because downstate New York has unique energy supply constraints. Gas from NESE would substitute for dirtier heating fuel oil and reduce the need for emissions-intensive trucks to haul compressed natural gas.

Lower electricity bills are an underappreciated benefit of NESE. As electricity demand rises nationwide, nothing poses a more lethal threat to the decarbonization of the power sector than higher electricity prices. Voters could rebel against climate policies they perceive as increasing family costs. And many advanced decarbonization technologies will struggle to scale without cheap electricity. By approving NESE, New York has held open the door for further emissions declines by responding to New York’s reliability challenges and serving New Yorkers. Voters will only trust elected officials who competently and responsibly manage the energy transition.

In the bigger picture, polarization over energy projects undermines national climate objectives. If every project becomes a symbolic battlefield with a Red team and a Blue team, we all lose. We need broad coalitions to build powerlines, pipelines, utility-scale clean energy, transportation projects, and the rest of the modern energy system.

For years, climate politics have been dominated by a narrative that our leaders must reflexively oppose any fossil development, whatever the costs. But “stop everything” environmentalism comes with costs, too. To address climate change, the United States needs to build clean energy at a scale that’s become hard to fathom. And the unfortunate reality is that the same structures of law and governance that stand in the way of building clean energy are often the

weapons climate advocates use to impede fossil energy. This reflexive opposition has exhausted our politics. And it's beginning to exhaust our energy system.

We offer a different narrative about how to lead on climate change. Our energy system needs more of everything. That includes more transmission and storage. It includes new nuclear power plants, as your Administration has wisely recognized. And it includes fossil fuel projects that keep consumers' energy bills affordable during the long-term transition to advanced energy technologies.

The American energy system is vast and complex. Our elected leaders are tasked with the challenge of navigating the competing imperatives of assuring affordable supply, maintaining aging infrastructure, scaling innovative technologies, and eliminating carbon emissions. We applaud your decision on the NESE pipeline as a bold navigation of these priorities.

Sincerely,

The Breakthrough Institute  
Third Way  
Inclusive Abundance Action  
Employ America