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## **Robot Job Seekers Turn Out for AI Jobs Fair at PA Capitol. Humans Need Not Apply.**

### **AI Jobs Fair Precedes Delivery of “We’re Not AI Ready” Statement to Shapiro Signed by 69 Organizations and Nearly 2,900 Individuals**

Harrisburg: Robots were the only job seekers in attendance at an “AI Jobs Fair” on Wednesday hosted by the Better Path Coalition and No False Climate Solutions PA. Following the jobs fair, participants delivered a statement to Governor Shapiro signed by 69 organizations and nearly 2,600 individuals that provides a short list of the concerns the public has with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the data centers that would support it.

The actions counter Shapiro's repeated refrains that “PA Is AI Ready.” Throngs of Pennsylvanians turning out in opposition wherever data centers that would support AI are proposed say otherwise.

“Governor Shapiro is making the same mistake Governor Rendell made when he ushered the first generation of fracking into the state more than 20 years ago without considering potential adverse impacts,” says **Karen Feridun, Co-Founder, Better Path Coalition and No False Climate Solutions PA.** “This time, Shapiro is in a rush to bring the latest generation of fracking here in the form of data centers that will be powered predominantly by fracked methane. Before it was data centers, it was hydrogen made from fracked methane, and, before that, petrochemicals made from fracked ethane. Impacts that were unknown in 2004 are impossible to ignore now, yet Shapiro is determined to keep his blinders firmly in place.”

"The unfettered spread of data centers across Pennsylvania is not a given" says **Ginny Marcille-Kerslake, Senior Organizer Food & Water Watch.** "While our state leaders are rolling out the red carpet for a buildout meant to serve Big Tech and the fossil fuel industry, Pennsylvanians are pushing back. Across the Commonwealth, community members are showing

up and speaking out in record numbers, stopping or delaying attempts to rezone land and build these industrial facilities. At a time when our country is so divided, this issue is bringing people together across party lines, united in strong opposition to the devastating impacts these AI data centers would have on people and the environment."

"Pennsylvanians don't need more technology to run their lives, what they need and want are the clean and healthy water, rivers, streams, air, wildlife, forests, wetlands and environments that support their lives, that enrich their lives with beauty and activity, and that provide healthy and sustaining jobs. Big tech and the dirty fossil fuels they rely upon are literal killers of our communities – they take our jobs, they take our health, they drive down the value of our property, and take the beautiful nature we rely upon and that enriches every aspect of our lives. We are standing strong to demand that our inalienable, human, and constitutional right to a clean, safe and healthy environment take priority over the profits and politics of big tech and dirty fossil fuels," says **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, and leader of both the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Green Amendments For The Generations movement.**

"Hyperscale data centers are just the latest attempt of the fossil fuel industry to hang on by the skin of their teeth to meet their bottom lines, all at the expense of our communities, our climate goals, and our futures. Data centers are not good neighbors and the growing public outcry against these projects shows that Pennsylvanians, and our nation as a whole, does not want these projects. Pennsylvanians know the promise of jobs and economic prosperity for their communities is a falsehood compared to the reality of dangerous air emissions, exacerbating water resources, public health risks, and complete dismissal of our climate goals. It is time Governor Shapiro, and our government officials at all levels, start listening to the public and also start upholding their constitutional duties under the PA Green Amendment, Article 1, Section 27 " says **Anneke van Rossum, Advocacy and Advancement Coordinator, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"AI can easily generate horror stories, and also, a sense of inevitability, that this age of augmented humans must happen," says **Raina Rippel, Executive Director, Communitopia.** "For better or worse. PA is on the cusp of a steep slippery slope, at the bottom of which, we may find heaps of disgruntled, sick, or even fleeing rural residents. This exodus has happened already with fracking, but once exposed, the after-effects may be inescapable. And if they cannot move away, or do not want to? Stay and face the costs. And billionaires up top will reap the benefits. Is this what the Commonwealth truly wants?"

"Before Pennsylvania calls itself 'AI ready,' it needs to be people ready. I'm from Beaver County, and as a cancer survivor I had to leave the place I love because pollution and chemical exposure made it too dangerous for me to stay. I want to come home. But until Pennsylvania puts

community health above corporate expansion, more families will keep packing up not for opportunity, but for survival,” says **Hilary Flint, PA Field Organizing Manager, Center for Oil & Gas Organizing**.

“PPL is planning a 20% rate increase by the end of July 2026 to pay for infrastructure to meet AI’s expansive energy demands. The AI bubble will burst on local Pennsylvania residents who will face economic instability from job loss and higher utility bills, as well as health, wildlife, and recreational harms,” says **Tamela Trussell, Founder, Move Past Plastic (MPP)**.

“It seems to some that there is an infinite volume of water on and in the Earth, but not all that water is fit to drink and so able to sustain life. Most hyper scale data centers will use more than 10 million gallons of water each year. Google’s Council Bluffs data center in Iowa uses much more, the equivalent of the annual water use of over 4 million homes. Data Centers must not be allowed to consume more clean water than is replenished naturally,” says **Barbara Brandom, Board Member, Concerned Health Professionals of PA**.

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