

[New York](#)[Capital Region](#)[Hudson Valley](#)[Business](#)[Opinion](#)[Entertainment](#)**BREAKING**

1h ago

Email raises questions on Stewart's role in Spa City preservation

OPINION

Commentary: Let's build the Micron plant right

The semiconductor facility will bring needed jobs and investment, but it will also affect its surroundings for years to come. Neighbors deserve greater accountability – and that's why we filed a lawsuit.

By **Timothy Roulan**, *For the Times Union*

Aug 9, 2026

[Skip Ad](#)

0:26 / 0:30



President Joe Biden, Gov. Kathy Hochul, Sen. Charles E. Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand are among those inspecting a 3D rendering of a Micron factory planned for the town of Clay, Onondaga County, in 2022. At left, Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra discusses the project.

Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images



Listen Now:

Commentary: Let's build the Micron plant right

About 5 Minutes

1x



Everlit

Almost every day, I drive my truck from my small farm in Clay, Onondaga County, past what is now one of the largest construction sites in the world. Micron Technology's massive semiconductor plant, which will take hundreds of acres of wetlands disappear, offer a glimpse of what the project will reshape our region.

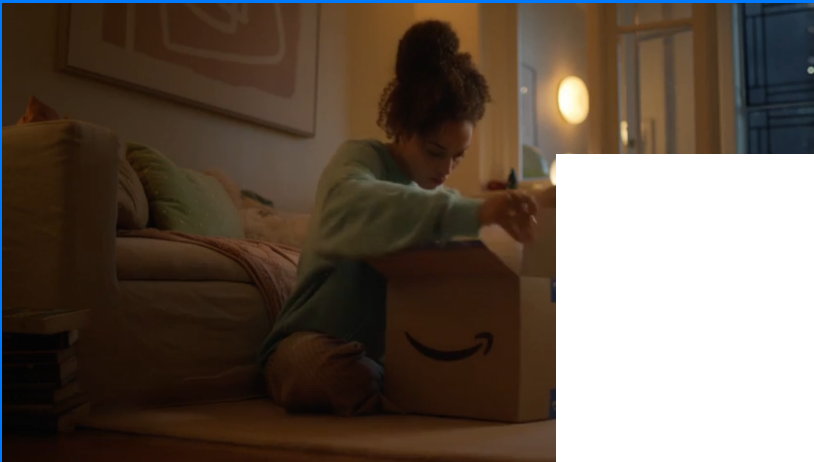
Skip Ad

0:26 / 0:30

When Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act four years ago, I wasn't paying much attention. I now understand that this project would not exist without billions of dollars in taxpayer support. Micron alone is expected to receive more than \$6 billion through the CHIPS Act as part of roughly \$20 billion in federal, state, and local subsidies and tax credits.

ADVERTISEMENT

Article continues below this ad



Order and
it will come.
Like today.

Available in select areas. Terms apply.

0:26 / 0:30

Skip Ad

×

Get Digital Access and Stay Informed With Trusted Local News.

ONLY 25¢

In return, chip manufacturers promised to create good jobs, hire and train local workers, provide child care, and respect the environment. Taxpayers deserve to know whether those promises are being kept.

I live next to the site where Micron plans to build this facility. The chips produced there will help power artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies. A project of this size will bring jobs and investment. But it will also affect the people who live here — now and for years to come.

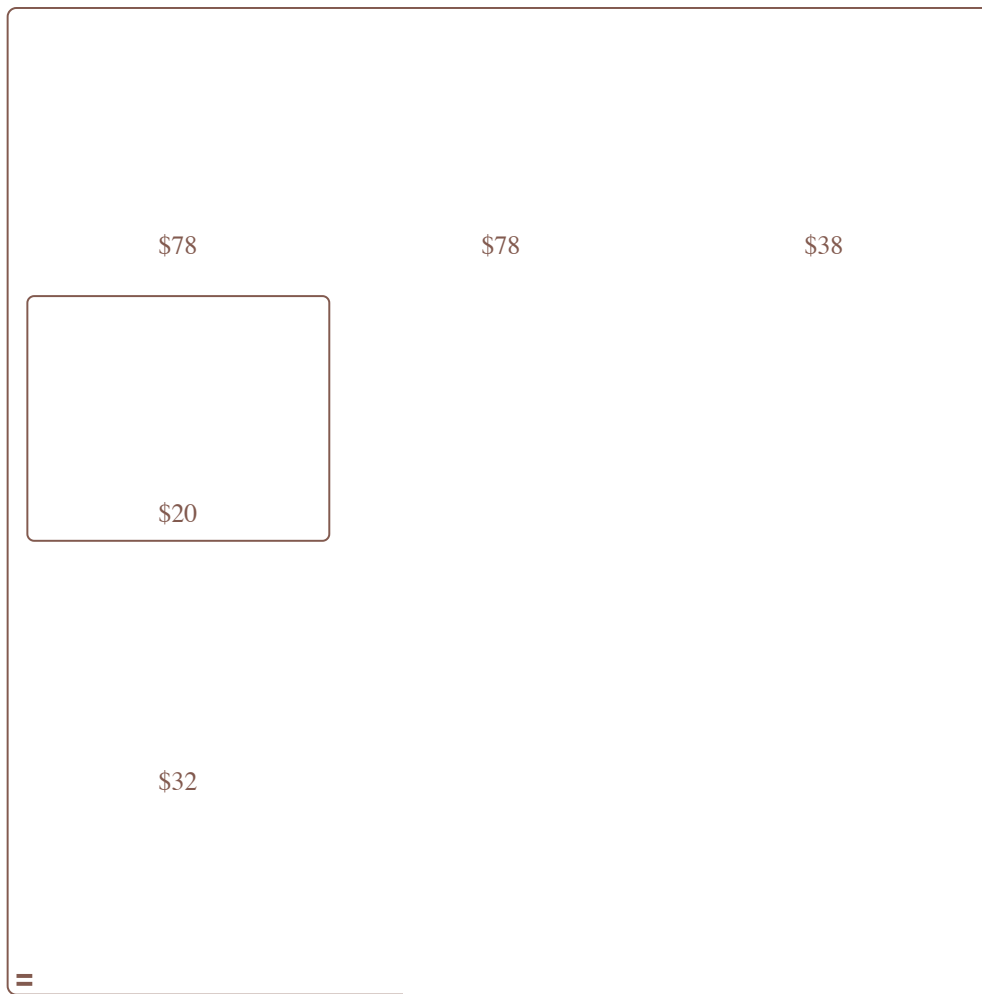
My neighbors and I are concerned about potential pollution of our air, water and soil from the chemicals used in chip manufacturing, including PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals." We worry about the loss of nearly 200 acres of wetlands and whether that will increase flooding in nearby neighborhoods. We also question whether local families will end up paying higher utility bills to support the enormous energy demands of the facility.

That is why 125 of us formed Neighbors for a Better Micron, and our numbers continue to grow.



Skip Ad

0:26 / 0:30



During the environmental review process, members of Neighbors for a Better Micron submitted comments regarding PFAS emissions and greenhouse gases to the agencies tasked with reviewing Micron's environmental impact, emphasizing the importance of protecting the community so this project could begin on solid footing. But the permits Micron received for its air emissions and its wastewater discharge both fail to adequately address PFAS contamination and greenhouse gas emissions.

We believe that these permits, as written, would allow Micron to discharge PFAS-
containing water into our waterways, vent PF
emit significant greenhouse gases without ad
more to be done before this project moves for

We recently filed a lawsuit asking the court to
air and water pollution permits. We believe th

Skip Ad

0:26 / 0:30

this facility can release into our air and waterways, and we're asking the court to ensure our health, environment and community are protected as this project moves forward.

For me, these concerns are deeply personal. I love this community. On my property, I've planted trees, grown food, raised turkeys and chickens, cared for rescued farm animals, and hired people from Syracuse who were homeless or previously homeless to help with the work.

ADVERTISEMENT

Article continues below this ad



SALE: ONLY 25¢

[Sign in](#)

SALE! Unlock digital access and enjoy trusted local reporting, dining guides and more.

ONLY 25¢

My neighbors and I want Micron to succeed. We recognize the opportunity this investment could bring to central New York. But we've also seen development projects promise more than they delivered, and we've lived with pollution left behind by earlier industries. We have a chance to do better this time.



Micron may not be here forever, but the envirc
project could last for generations. That's why
enforceable commitments to protect our envir
and deliver the economic benefits it has prom

[Skip Ad](#)

0:26 / 0:30

The public agrees. A recent Data for Progress poll found that while 70% of Onondaga County voters support the Micron project, 87% also support requiring Micron to make legally binding commitments on jobs, environmental protection and public infrastructure. People don't see these goals as competing. They expect both.

Many elected officials have championed this project because of its economic potential. We hope they will now help ensure that potential is matched by accountability. Longtime residents deserve a real voice in decisions that will affect our homes, our health and our community for decades.

ADVERTISEMENT

Article continues below this ad

Sign up for the Observation Deck newsletter

Keep up with the latest editorials, commentary and letters to the editor about the issues that matter to you.



[Sign Up Here](#)

Micron has the opportunity to build more than a
community that will be its neighbor for generations

[Skip Ad](#)

0:26 / 0:30

Be a good neighbor, Micron.

Timothy Roulan of Clay is a member of Neighbors for a Better Micron.

ADVERTISEMENT
Article continues below this ad



Sign up for The Observation Deck

Weekly editorials, columns and letters from the Times Union opinion team.

Email

Sign Up

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms Of Use](#) and acknowledge that your information will be used as described in our [Privacy Policy](#).



Aug 9, 2026

Timothy Roulan

Skip Ad

0:26 / 0:30

Around The Web

Powered by **REVCONTENT**

Cognitive Decline Begins When Seniors Say These 3 Phrases (See Which ones)

By [Cognitive Decline](#)

Neurologists Beg Seniors With Neuropathy: Stop Doing This Now

By [Health Weekly](#)

After 60, Leg Strength Comes From One Simple Daily Move

By [ApexLabs](#)

Sciatica is Not From a Slipped Disc. Meet The Real Enemy of Sciatica (Stop This)

By [SmoothSpine](#)

She Hung This Hummingbird House. Then This Happened

By [Ribili](#)

Why Gardeners Are Replacing Birdbaths With Tiny Bee Bowls

By [Peoasis](#)

Endocrinologist: If You Have Diabetes, Read This Before It's Removed!

By [Health Weekly](#)

1 Simple Hack to Your Electric Bill Tonight)

By [MadeInGenius](#)

Skip Ad

0:26 / 0:30



Say Goodbye to Sagging Breasts? Women Over 50 Love This Bra

By [BRAS](#)

Doctor Begs Seniors: Do This to Stop Losing Muscle

By [ApexLabs](#)

LiberNovo Maxis Dynamic Ergonomic Chair - Maxis Manual / Basic Bundle / Graphite

By [libernovo_US](#)

Report an error

We take accuracy seriously and strive to earn your trust with fair and complete coverage. If you spot an error, please let us know about it using [our corrections form](#).

You also can respond to a story: [Submit a letter to the editor](#).

If you need help unrelated to a specific story, [please contact customer service](#).

Most Popular

1. Albany apartments overrun by trash, rodents, drug users and mold
 2. Audit: \$1.2M in 'unidentified payments' made to Albany County workers
 3. Duty Calls: Mechanicville resident gets top role at Air National Guard
 4. Albany police identify woman, 66, killed in
 5. Luciano Frattolin found guilty of murder in
-

Opinion

[Skip Ad](#)

0:26 / 0:30



OPINION

Editorial: A recipe for more hunger



OPINION

Letters: Don't ban license plate readers, focus on public trust



OPINION

Comm... the Mi

Let's Play



Bongo



Really Bad Chess



Typeshift



Pile-Up Poker



Top ^

About



Contact



Services



Account