Policy Matters Ohio

CHIPS COMMUNITIES UNITED

REIMAGINING
THE SILICON HEARTLAND

SUMMIT



MAY 22, 2026
COLUMBUS, OH

REIMAGINING
THE SILICON HEARTLAND

AGENDA

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM — **Registration & Breakfast**

9:30 AM – 9:40 AM — **Opening Remarks**
Judith Barish, Coalition Director, *CHIPS Communities United*

9:40 AM – 11:00 AM — **Panel #1: *What is the impact on Ohio's resources?***

- **Moderator: Molly Bryden,** Climate and Sustainability Researcher, *Policy Matters Ohio*
- **Madhumita Dutta**, Associate Professor of Geography, *The Ohio State University*
- **Luke Sulfridge**, Executive Director, *Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council*
- **Lenny Siegel**, Executive Director, *Center for Public Environmental Oversight*
- **Madison Hill**, Deputy Director, *Columbus Water and Power*

11:15 AM – 12:35 PM — **Panel #2: *What are the real labor and workforce development opportunities?***

- **Moderator: Bailey Sandin**, Work and Wages Researcher, *Policy Matters Ohio*
- **Dorsey Hager**, Executive Secretary Treasurer, *Columbus/Central Ohio Building Trades Council*
- **Pat Hook**, Business Manager, *IBEW Local 683*
- **Anibel Ferus-Comelo**, Director, *UC Berkley Labor Center*
- **Rand Wilson**, Strategic Advisor, *CHIPS Communities United*

12:35 PM – 1:35 PM — **Lunch**

1:35 PM – 2:35 PM — **Panel #3: *How can Ohioans hold the tech industry accountable?***

- **Moderator: Judith Barish**, Coalition Director, *CHIPS Communities United*
- **Addison Caruso**, Staff Attorney, *Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services*
- **Spencer Dirrig**, Vice President of Government Affairs, *Ohio Environmental Council*
- **Quintin Koger Kidd**, Community Advocate, *Wilmington, Ohio*

2:35 PM – 3:00 PM — **Closing Remarks**
Hannah Halbert, Executive Director, *Policy Matters Ohio*

A NOTE FROM OUR HOSTS

Thank you for attending Reimagining the Silicon Heartland! Policy Matters Ohio and CHIPS Communities United are excited to work with communities and other stakeholders to ensure that development benefits everyone.

We understand these topics are nuanced. We hope you leave today with a clear understanding of the tech developments in Ohio, better informed and full of creative ways to advocate for your community. We have the opportunity to usher in a bright new future for the great state of Ohio.

We are honored to do the work with you.

Special thanks to the panelists and CSCRAB for making today's event a success!

— Hannah Halbert
Executive Director
Policy Matters Ohio



— Judith Barish
Coalition Director
CHIPS Communities United



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Judith Barish

Judith Barish is coalition director of CHIPS Communities United, a national coalition of unions, environmental advocates, and community-based organizations working to make the semiconductor industry more equitable, sustainable, and accountable. Judith has held many roles in labor and non-profit organizations, including leading a strategic consulting firm for more than ten years. She holds degrees from Harvard and Princeton Universities.

Molly Bryden

Molly Bryden is the climate and sustainability researcher with Policy Matters Ohio. Her research focuses on policies designed to support clean energy and transportation investment, sustainable and responsible development, and climate and environmental justice to generate meaningful, long-term benefits for Ohio's working families. Before joining Policy Matters, Molly worked as a fellow Cleveland Owns, where she supported grassroots campaigns to build energy and economic democracy. As a graduate assistant at Cleveland State University, her research examined the spatial accessibility of energy assistance programming among energy-burdened households. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Case Western Reserve University and a master's in public administration from Cleveland State University.

Addison Caruso

Addison Caruso is a Staff Attorney for Fair Shake Environmental Services located in the Cleveland area. At Fair Shake, Addison advises individuals and organizational clients on a wide range of issues ranging from general legal advice to more specific environmental matters. Clients are represented on a sliding scale. Addison also assists with Fair Shake's free community democracy program, which provides free organizational assistance to communities.

Spencer Dirrig

Spencer Dirrig serves as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) where he directs the OEC and OEC Action Fund's government affairs and political strategy across local, state, and federal levels. He is focused on advancing clean energy, clean water, public lands, and democratic accountability in Ohio. Spencer has testified before the Ohio General Assembly, led major legislative and advocacy campaigns, and managed coalitions advancing environmental and infrastructure policy in Ohio. He holds two bachelor's degrees from The Ohio State University in Political Science and Economics. Spencer lives in Columbus with his dog, Saoirse.

Madhumita Dutta

Madhumita Dutta is an associate professor of human geography at the Ohio State University. Her research focuses on the political economy of land, labor and environment. Currently her research is focused on two distinct areas: high-tech workforce development in Central Ohio and community experiences of climate and hydrological changes in the Indus river basin in India. Dr. Dutta is committed to interdisciplinary research and collaborative work with communities, and to translating research insights into accessible public-facing scholarship.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Anibel Ferus-Comelo

Anibel Ferus-Comelo has over 25 years of experience in labor policy research with a focus on workers' rights and environmental sustainability in global supply chains of the electronics industry. She directs the community-engaged Labor Studies program at the University of California, Berkeley through her joint appointment at the Center for Labor Research and Education and the Goldman School of Public Policy.

Dorsey Hager

Dorsey Hager comes from a family with an extensive organized labor background. His mother retired from Navistar International where she was a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. His father's career spanned over 30 years as a member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 189. Dorsey became an apprentice member of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 50 in September 1994. In May of 1998, he completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman insulator. He served his local union in elected office as Financial Secretary and as Business Manager. In March of 2014, he was elected to his current position as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council. He and his wife of 26 years, Michelle live in Marysville.

Madison Hill

Madison Hill (Wolever) is a Columbus area native, graduating from Pickerington High School. She is currently the Deputy Director of Columbus Water and Power, having served the City of Columbus for almost 15 years. She oversees Policy, Sustainability, and Regulatory Compliance, leading programming and staff for the large municipal water, sewer, and power provider. In 2024, she came back home to the Department of Public Utilities (now Columbus Water and Power) where she made a career transition into Policy, Sustainability, and Regulatory Compliance. She feels extremely fortunate every day to serve her community and support her Department. Madison holds bachelor's degrees in Latin, History, and Classics from Miami University, a law degree from Capital University, and is currently pursuing her master's in Public Administration at Franklin University. She lives in Gahanna, Ohio with her two children, and a revolving door of adopted furry friends.

Pat Hook

Patrick Hook is the Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 683. Patrick has served in this role since 2021 and has been part of Union leadership since 2015. Local 683's membership has tripled in size during Patrick's time in office. Patrick also serves as the President of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building Trades where he advocates for the growth of the Unionized Construction industry. Originally from Marietta Ohio, he has lived in Central Ohio for over 25 years.

Quintin Koger

Quintin Koger Kidd is a Wilmington, Ohio–based community advocate and administrator of the Clinton County (OH) Community Forum, a Facebook group focused on government accountability and transparency, particularly related to data center development. A former council member and mayor of one of California's fastest-growing cities, he brings firsthand experience navigating large-scale land use decisions. Quintin is a retired CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner with more than three decades in IT, specializing in governance, compliance, and financial oversight.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Bailey Sandin

Originally from Youngstown, Bailey Sandin moved to Columbus in 2016 on a mission to create a better Ohio for working families. Sandin attended the University of Akron where she studied Political Science and minored in Arabic. Her passion for labor issues largely comes from her father's work as a union millwright at General Motors Lordstown. Prior to Policy Matters, Sandin served in the Ohio Legislature as a Legislative Aide and coordinated various workforce development programs in Central Ohio. Outside of her policy work, Sandin is an avid music lover and staunch supporter of the Northeast and Central Ohio music scenes. She brings to Policy Matters a strong sense of community building and a focus on making the nuances of labor policy easily digestible for the average Ohioan.

Lenny Siegel

Lenny Siegel has been executive director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight since 1994. One of the American environmental movement's leading experts on both the vapor intrusion pathway and military facility contamination, he has been writing about the semiconductor industry since the 1970s. He runs two Internet newsgroups: the Military Environmental Forum and the Brownfields Internet Forum, as well as activist discussion lists on TCE and PFAS. In 2011 Siegel was awarded U.S. EPA's Superfund Citizen of the Year award for his work overseeing the Moffett Field/MEW Superfund project, site of one of U.S. EPA's earliest and largest vapor intrusion investigations. He served as mayor of Mountain View, California in 2018.

Luke Sulfridge

Luke Sulfridge serves as the SOPEC Executive Director, leading organizational development and membership support strategy. Luke works directly with the SOPEC Board of Directors and the General Assembly to execute sustainable energy goals and projects for members. He has a BA in political science from Berea College, an MA in political science from Appalachian State University, and an MS in Safety, Security, and Emergency Management from Eastern Kentucky University.

Rand Wilson

Rand Wilson, now CHIPS Communities United strategic advisor, worked as an organizer for more than forty years with a number of national and local unions. In the early 1990s, Wilson helped organize a grassroots campaign to broaden a semiconductor industry consortium's research agenda to include benefits for workers, host communities, and the environment. After the industrial policy initiative SEMATECH refused requests to devote resources to making cleaner and safer chips, the campaign persuaded Congress to earmark $10 million of SEMATECH's budget for "environmentally safe manufacturing methods." Wilson is a resident of Somerville, Massachusetts, where he convenes Somerville Stands Together (a community-labor coalition) and serves as a trustee on the Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust.

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Saturday Stats are Policy Matters Ohio's bi-weekly run-down of the big numbers you need to know.

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