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VATICAN CITY — On May 16, 2024, Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York and Mayor Michelle Wu of Boston attended a climate change summit hosted by Pope Francis at the Vatican. The event gathered global leaders, activists, and academics to address climate challenges.

Gov. Hochul, reflecting on her upbringing and her late father, highlighted New York's commitment to achieving 70% clean energy by 2030 despite recent setbacks. She emphasized her family's influence on her dedication to service and her Catholic faith.

Gov. Hochul and other leaders, including Gov. Maura Healey of Massachusetts and Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, had a private audience with Pope Francis. The Pope, using a white cane, addressed the assembly in Italian, urging more action against climate change. After his remarks, attendees signed a climate change agreement.

During individual meetings, Hochul invited the Pope to visit New York. Hochul also announced nearly $300 million in climate resiliency funding to support grants immediately.

Mayor Wu also delivered a significant speech at the summit. She shared personal anecdotes about climate change, recounting her children’s experience with changing weather patterns in Boston. Wu's administration has implemented various clean energy policies, including investing in environmentally friendly funds and reducing emissions from buildings.

Wu's itinerary included a public bus ride and meetings with the mayor of Rome. She emphasized Boston’s initiatives to reduce emissions and promote sustainable development.

Both leaders underscored their cities’ efforts and the importance of municipal action against climate change in their addresses at the Vatican summit.