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Leadership Announcement on Fossil Fuel Hydrogen Hubs – The Wrong Path for Our Region's Future

Pittsburgh, Pa. – The call today for a hydrogen and carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) hub in our region is a plan that will take us in the wrong direction.

We agree with the Ohio River Valley Institute's (ORVI) [assessment](#) that, "nearly all the hydrogen produced today is dirty, and clean hydrogen is not yet market-ready. Truly clean, green hydrogen has important niche applications in industries that are difficult or costly to electrify, but effective reduction of carbon emissions will result from expanded electrification and cleaning up power generation."

"We know that putting health first for infrastructure investments also means putting people first and putting sound economics first," said Matt Mehalik, executive director of the Breathe Project. "We know doubling down on fossil-fuel-based infrastructure only puts fossil fuel special interests first. We have been hearing excuses about gas as a bridge fuel for over a decade. It's time that we are across that bridge to renewable energy, not fossil fuel band-aids."

Almost exactly one year ago members of the Breathe Collaborative sent a letter to Southwestern Pennsylvania's Governmental, Business and Civic Leadership Delegation calling for a better future in the Mon Valley following U.S. Steel's disclosure it was canceling its promised investments there. That [letter](#) emphasized:

- A vision centering on improving the health of communities, with leadership and reliable, good-faith partners that keep promises.
- A plan respecting residents' rights to clean air and water and a healthy environment.
- Investments in people, not in industries that harm communities.
- Solutions addressing short-term air pollution problems and long-term climate necessities lacking in past and current proposed plans for the Mon Valley Works.
- Reliable, family-sustaining jobs in industries that help - not hurt - their local communities.

Today, many of these leaders have responded by proposing to ignore these guidelines and instead double down upon and extend the influence of **fossil fuel** companies with poor public health records by appealing to federal money as a lifeline for them instead of for communities that need good-faith partners.

In addition, Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) Technologies are underperforming, unproven and should not be the basis for future major infrastructure investments.

This means proceeding directly to [renewable energy](#) for electrical generation, a pathway that will provide the [best economic benefits](#) to our region and Commonwealth from a lifecycle investment perspective. Unlike the plan announced today, which will lock in [stranded assets that will underperform](#) consumers of electrical power as soon as this infrastructure is completed, investing in infrastructure based on renewables and direct electrification will clean up our communities, address climate needs, and provide a reliable infrastructure that we need today, 5 years from now, 20 years from now, and 50 years from now.

We call on our region's leadership to [follow fundamental economics](#) and health knowledge rather than bending to the will of fossil fuel interests who are interested in extending their lives at the expense of our communities and our future generations.

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