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**Ohio River Valley Community Organizations Send Letter to President Trump
With Concerns about Regional Petrochemical Development**

Eleven community and expert groups and residents from the Ohio River Valley have expressed their concerns in a letter to President Trump about petrochemical development as the wrong path for the future of the community.

The letter was sent to coincide with President Trump's planned visit on August 13, 2019 to the Royal Dutch Shell petrochemical plant being built in Beaver County. The letter can be viewed on the Breatheproject.org [website](#) and on its [Blog page](#).

Some of the concerns expressed in the letter include:

- Serious negative health implications will result if the plant begins operating:
 - The plant will [erase 30 years' worth of air quality improvements](#).
 - It will result in higher rates of [respiratory disease, heart disease, asthma, lost productivity, cancer, and early deaths](#), as well as adverse birth outcomes.
 - The industry [puts the region's water supply at risk](#).
 - There already is an existing overburden of disease in the community in terms of respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer that would be [impacted by the emissions from this facility](#).
- Dire climate change implications if the plant begins operating:
 - The Shell plant will emit over [2,200,000 tons of CO2 per year](#), which is the [equivalent of the emission of 424,000 passenger vehicles](#) driven for a year. It will take 12 percent of Pennsylvania's forests to absorb this amount of CO2.
- Negative long-term economic development outcomes:

- The region will have difficulty in recruiting new businesses when the community becomes increasingly more toxic and property values fall as a result of the plant's pollution levels.
- The plant will only employ about 500 – 600 workers long-term.

The groups requested that the president, "Please take time to visit with people in our community," and "we ask that you stop ongoing efforts to subsidize the petrochemical industry with billions of dollars of public money and loan guarantees that drain the life out of our communities. We would rather see such support go to jobs and projects that promote health, extend lives, and support the whole community. Please commit to protecting our health, our economy, and our children's future."

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