



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Breathe Project Statement on Gov. Shapiro Securing \$10 Million Payment from Shell**

Breathe Project has issued the following statement in response to Gov. Josh Shapiro's press release issued on May 24, 2023, that the administration has secured a \$10 Million payment from Shell, including \$6.2 million for the local community to resolve air quality violations.

"The governor and the DEP should be holding Shell accountable for their unlawful actions. Many of us in the Breathe Project network have spent countless hours trying to steer our region away from harmful economic development entities whose business model involves paying fines when they predictably exceed their (overly generous) permits," stated Matthew Mehalik, Executive Director of the Breathe Project.

"It is unfortunate that the \$10 million fine, which sounds like a lot, in reality is a small fraction of Shell's \$9.6 billion in profits in the first quarter of 2023. This amounts to less than one tenth of one percent of Shell's profits. By analogy, this is like asking a Beaver County household, which has a quarterly income of \$14,735, to pay a fine of \$14.75, about the price of a parking ticket. We cannot allow another entity to engage in pay-to-pollute behavior that comes at the expense of our region's residents and allow the fines to be perceived as charitable donations to our communities. Our region deserves better."

We ask that media please refer any specific questions on the Shapiro and DEP response to Jen Duggan of Environmental Integrity Project at [jduggan@environmentalintegrity.org](mailto:jduggan@environmentalintegrity.org)

Read Gov. Josh Shapiro's Statement [here](#).

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