



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Debra Smit, Breathe Project  
[dsmit@breatheproject.org](mailto:dsmit@breatheproject.org), 412-760-7677

### **Breathe Project Statement On President Biden's Decision to Block to Sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel**

Pittsburgh, Pa. –

Despite all of the drama associated with debates about ownership of U.S. Steel, several factors have not changed during the entire, yearlong sale process: many years of underinvestment in operations, kicking the can down the road, and lack of attention to the broad strategic landscape for the worldwide steel industry continue to produce much anxiety in Mon Valley communities about the future. The Nippon deal's pledges never provided specifics about improving the short-term community health needs from leaking plants nor a long-term vision of regional viability on a carbon-free steel manufacturing platform suitable for 21<sup>st</sup> century competitiveness. Nippon's initial bid didn't even include the Mon Valley Works at all. The dynamic became what is the minimum that needed to be done for the Mon Valley to get the deal across the finish line—not a strategy for addressing fundamental issues and success.

Going forward, the Breathe Project recommends that U.S. Steel and regional leadership consider and include the voices of the residents of the Mon Valley – not just the politicians who depend upon the company for campaign contributions—in conversations for what is good for the community and for business. These voices have been calling for:

- 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 proposed plans for the Mon Valley Works.
- Reliable, family-sustaining jobs in industries that help – not hurt – their local communities.

The answer must be to go big to survive. The plants in the Mon Valley are based on an old business model because of heavy fossil fuel use and high carbon emissions. This needs to change for the long-term viability given steel market demand trends. This was true last year and is still true today.

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