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Breathe Project Statement On President's Decision to Review (Again) U.S. Steel/ Nippon Merger/Investment and Subsequent Developments

Pittsburgh, Pa. – The Breathe Project's Executive Director, Matthew Mehalik, reacted to today's announcements involving U.S. Steel with the following statement:

"Today's announcements that the Trump administration ordered another CFIUS review of the proposed U.S. Steel / Nippon Steel terms as well as updated statements about the proposed plant investments totaling \$7 Billion foreground key questions that must be addressed with transparency ASAP:

- What, specifically, is being proposed with these investments in terms of plant designs and operations?
- To what extent will these investments address ongoing, negative health impacts from outdated facilities WHILE ALSO addressing associated climate pollution that will guarantee the investments will not become stranded assets in the near future?
- To what extent are impacted community members being consulted in these discussions, not just proxy representatives receiving campaign money from U.S. Steel?
- To what extent will the \$7 Billion involve investments in the communities themselves where the plants are located to address past and present neglected health, infrastructure, and quality of life needs of Mon Valley Communities?

These questions must be addressed because of 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.

Even today, Nippon's pledges lack specifics about improving the short-term community health needs from leaking plants and a long-term vision of regional viability on a carbon-free steel manufacturing platform suitable for 21st century competitiveness.

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.” said Dr. Mehalik.

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