



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Breathe Project Statement On U.S. Steel/ Nippon Merger/Investment Rally**

Pittsburgh, Pa. –

Tonight's USS/Nippon rally in Pittsburgh followed a familiar script. For decades, workers and residents across Western Pennsylvania have witnessed a cycle of lofty promises from U.S. Steel—many of which are later delayed or abandoned—often delivered without transparency or meaningful community input. (See "[Mon Valley U.S. Steel Pollution Timeline: A History of #brokenpromises](#).”)

When the most recent CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States) review was announced in early April, the Breathe Project [publicly raised key questions](#) about the nature and terms of the proposed investments. To date, these questions remain unanswered:

- What, specifically, is being proposed for the \$2.1B (out of \$14B total) of investments in terms of Mon Valley plant designs and operations?
- To what extent will these investments address ongoing, negative health impacts from outdated facilities WHILE ALSO addressing associated climate pollution?
- 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 there be investments in the communities where the plants are located to address past and present neglected health, infrastructure, and quality of life needs of Mon Valley Communities?

At today's event, company and political leaders failed to provide clear answers.

Despite the fanfare, the presentation lacked any substantive plan to address urgent public health issues caused by ongoing plant leaks. Nor did it offer a credible long-term vision for transitioning to carbon-free steel production for the Mon Valley —something essential for both community well-being and 21st-century industrial competitiveness. This is a minimum requirement from a company notable for its [enforcement actions](#), [fines](#) and [community health impacts](#).

Critically, U.S. Steel spent [\\$990,000 for lobbying](#) in the first quarter of 2025 much of it [in an effort to avoid compliance with national hazardous air pollutant air quality standards](#) for coke ovens and integrated steel facilities. Any future investments must prioritize eliminating pollution from old, fossil-fuel based plant equipment.

The Mon Valley deserves better. Community voices—not just those of campaign-backed politicians—must be at the center of these discussions. Real progress will only come when public health and community revitalization are treated as non-negotiable priorities.

In addition, the public discussion needs to 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.

Breathe Project’s Executive Director, Matthew Mehalik, commented, “Our community deserves more than rallies and spectacle. There have been [too many years of promise-breaking](#) and too much emphasis on short-term investments that continue to perpetuate community health harms and workforce anxiety. There was no focus on fundamental strategic priorities that would shift from fossil-fuel based steelmaking in the Mon Valley to cutting edge fossil-fuel free technology suitable for the future.”

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