

February 16, 2024

To: MACH2 Hydrogen Hub/OCED/DOE

We, the 32 undersigned organizations, understand there is a community meeting regarding the MACH2 Hydrogen Hub set in Philadelphia on March 11 starting at 8:15 am. The undersigned organizations protest this meeting.

Communities in the Delaware River Watershed in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey are anxious to engage on the proposed MACH2 hydrogen hub planned for our region. People (i.e. “stakeholders”) have been closely following all developments related to MACH2, including the briefings and webinars that have been available.

We request that the community meeting you are planning be changed. We strongly object to several aspects of this proposed meeting:

1. The Steamfitters Union Hall is not an appropriate location for this meeting (14420 Townsend Road, Suite A, Philadelphia, PA 19154). It is located on the northern edge of the City of Philadelphia, almost outside of the City limits. It is not proximate or even close to the dense populations that will be impacted by the MACH2 hydrogen hub components that are currently mapped. Additionally, it is difficult to travel there by public transportation. Some people would not be able to travel there at all because of the long commute. The obstacles include:

- traveling by public transportation is very difficult; from Center City, taking approximately 1 ½ hours;
- the long distance that one must walk to get to the Union Hall;
- the very early departure time from the areas in Philadelphia that would be most impacted if one wants to arrive there in time for the start of the event;
- not everyone has access to a car. The union hall location makes it most convenient for labor union members to attend but not for the general public to attend.

Meetings for the community should be held in neutral locations such as a public meeting space, not a union hall. Our understanding is that there is funding earmarked in the MACH2 \$750 million for union apprenticeships that may benefit the Steamfitters – so we feel this location is biased.

2. The day and time of the meeting eliminates the possibility of many community members to attend. This is a work day and during working hours for most working people. The meetings should be held after work hours or on a weekend and should have

both virtual and in-person attendance options for active participation. In-person only meetings cuts out many people who may otherwise attend.

3. There should be at least 6 weeks' notice before a meeting so that people can plan to attend, arrange for child care if needed, etc. There must be ample lead time so people can make arrangements to participate.

4. The public needs information about MACH2 beforehand. There has been very little information about the MACH2 Hub components and the public is largely unaware of the details of MACH2. The public needs a rich level of information about MACH2 and its various components and how these will impact the quality of air, water, and community life. The information provided thus far has been limited and some of it is dated, according to what we learned. For instance, we understand there is a revised Abstract and/or application that is not publicly available but is different from the Abstract that we have been able to obtain. Delaware Riverkeeper Network has requested this through the Freedom of Information Act and has not received this Abstract and/or application. It is important to have current and reliable information before any community meeting. This information needs to be provided in writing ahead of time so people know what to expect and can ask informed questions at the community session. In order for communities to be able to provide their free, prior, informed consent of any proposal, each impacted community needs to understand how each facility and how the whole network of facilities comprising the hub will impact their lives, especially in terms of short and long term health impacts and public safety. We need facts about MACH2 to be transparent and shared widely long before there are any meetings to discuss the project.

We request that you consider our concerns and set a meeting that will maximize, not limit, the people who will be able to take part. Environmental justice communities that could be impacted, in particular, should be given special consideration in regards to access and information about the MACH2 components that are planned for their communities as their environmental burdens are already too great with respect to established environmental justice laws. The perspectives of community members who would have to live with/alongside components of MACH2 are crucial for the MACH2 organizers to hear. This is especially important because of your invoking of the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative that is supposed to drive community engagement for the hydrogen hubs. Your planned meeting does not reflect any consideration of the needs of the environmental justice communities.

We request that the planned "community meeting" be changed to address our stated concerns.

Signed,

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Berks Gas Truth
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Philadelphia Chapter
Action Together New Jersey
American Infrastructure Solutions
Bucks Environmental Action
Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living - CRCQL
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
DivestNJ
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
EmpowerNJ
Food and Water Watch
Gabriela Antao SLP LLC
Genesis Farm Ecological Learning Center
Lansdowne PA Environmental Advisory Council
Move Past Plastic (MPP)
Move To Amend Lower Bucks County PA
NEPA Green Coalition
NJ Sierra Club, Central Group
No False Solutions PA
Raymond Kemble
represent Us
Saddler's Woods Conservation Association
Sanderson Sustainable Design
Southeastern Pennsylvania Sierra Club
Surfrider Foundation
Third Act
Unitarian Universalist Church Cherry Hill NJ
WaSepa
Waterspirit

Cc: White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

(contact for this communication: tracy@delawariverkeeper.org)