

To the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and undersigned,

On behalf of MACH2 I'd like to start by extending our appreciation for the passion and concern you bring to environmental justice issues here in the Mid-Atlantic region. The MACH2 team has received your letter raising potential concerns regarding the public meeting we are hosting on Monday March 11th. We are disappointed to learn that despite our continuous and open communication with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network over the last weeks and months – including our commitment to you, in writing, two weeks ago, that we would work with you to select an additional public event location in Southeast PA later this Spring – that you and the undersigned have taken a position in opposition to the event.

As of the morning we are writing this response, more than 200 guests from across our region have registered for the event. This means that with registration open for only a week we are more than half-way to the roughly 350 attendees who joined us at the MACH2 public event in Delaware this past December, and we have every reason to believe our Philadelphia event will meet or exceed that number.

Out of respect for those 200 individuals, respect for the time we have been granted by our speakers and panelists, and respect for the many staffers who have spent the last several weeks coordinating schedules and putting this event together, MACH2 will be keeping the public event as scheduled for Monday, March 11th.

That said, we would like to reiterate that the event is a public event open to all, and you are welcome, and in fact encouraged, to send members of your network to attend. We appreciate that we have a difference of opinion on the time and location of this meeting, nevertheless, we hope to see you there.

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We would also like to address a few of the issues you have raised in your letter:

1. **Public Event.** MACH2 team has consistently framed the event scheduled for March 11th as a public event rather than a community meeting.

We believe this is an important distinction. If this was a community meeting related to a specific project in the MACH2 portfolio we would approach the planning around the event with a much tighter geographic focus including direct outreach to the host community and any fence line communities. The March 11th event, however, is a public event, and our goal is to host a regional meeting where people from as many constituencies as possible are able to attend and learn about the MACH2 Hub as a whole.

Additionally, we have been consistent in our messaging around this for several weeks. In our communication with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network on February 2nd, we indicated that that this event is “geared toward casting as wide a net as possible by providing very broad information on what MACH2 is about and explaining how the MACH2 process will unfold.”

In that same email we also indicated that “[w]hen MACH2 starts breaking ground on individual projects, community outreach will absolutely be held well in advance at locations that are appropriate for those specific projects.”

We believe that in light of our clarification around this point, it is inaccurate for the co-signed letter to refer to the March 11th meeting as a community meeting rather than a public event. The MACH2 team has been as clear as possible on how we intend to approach those two types of meetings with different intentionality and goals.

2. Multiple Public Events. The co-signed letter appears to assume that the public event scheduled for March 11th is the only one that MACH2 will host in PA.

This is inaccurate, and we are surprised that the letter does not acknowledge, or at least reference, that MACH2 has already committed in writing to an additional event in the Southeast PA region later this Spring.

In our communication with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network on February 6th, we indicated, related to a request for a public event in Delaware County, PA, that:

The MACH2 team has reviewed, and we are a yes for this meeting. We’ll work to make that happen later this Spring. Too early for specific details at this time, but we’ll aim for afternoon / evening hours to accommodate folks who cannot attend in the AM.

Additionally in that same communication we wrote:

One thing that I think is important to convey is that the intent is to have *many* public meetings in PA, DE, and NJ over the life of the hub. And a good number of these meetings will also include direct participation from OCED. I think keeping this in mind can help inform any questions or concerns that may come up about particular venues, dates, times, etc. We do not believe there is a deficit with the Philly venue that requires changing the location. That said, it’s not the only meeting the MACH2 team will be hosting this Spring, and we are glad for this opportunity to add an additional public event specific to Delaware County, at a time and location that may work better for your network.

We believe we have been clear and open not only about our intention to host multiple public events, but also about our willingness to work with organizations in the environmental justice community to select times and location for upcoming events that may allow for additional members of your networks to attend.

3. Event start time. The co-signed letter states that the event starts at 8:15AM and goes on to state that this would require a very early departure time which would cause a burden for guests who want to attend.

This is inaccurate. The doors open at 8:15AM; however, programming does not begin until 9:00AM. The MACH2 team has built-in a 45 minute arrival window to allow guests to arrive at a time which is most convenient to them. Additionally, entry will be open to guests arriving at any time over the entire half-day of programming. Guests with a long commute are welcome to arrive at any time during the public event.

4. Evening / Weekend meeting. As indicated above, the MACH2 team has already committed to an afternoon / evening public event two weeks ago. For the half-day public event we will be hosting on March 11th, however, a different start time is not feasible.

Hosting a half-day event starting at 6:00pm would require guests, panelists, and speakers to have availability till 9:00 – 10:00PM. While this may be more convenient for some guests, it would certainly lead to significant burdens for others. We believe there would be similar issues with hosting a half-day event on a weekend.

To properly host an evening or weekend event in a manner that does not impose burdens on attendees, we would likely shorten the program significantly. The MACH2 team can certainly make this adjustment at some of our future events, but this does not align with our goal for the March 11th event of providing a comprehensive and informative overview of the MACH2 project as a whole.

5. Six week notice. The co-signed letter states that there should be at least 6 weeks' notice before the public event is held.

We are unclear as to where this proposed six-week benchmark is coming from, as we are not aware of any major employers in our region who require six-weeks' notice to authorize leave. Our understanding is that the benchmark for most employers is one or two weeks of notice. We are also not aware of any rules specific to childcare which would require scheduling six weeks in advance.

The MACH2 team is committed to adequate notice of upcoming public events. Given that more than 200 attendees have already signed up in the week since registration went live, we are confident that we are living up to this commitment with regards to the March 11th public event.

6. Access by public transit. As noted in your letter, there is access to the site via public transit. From Center City, the event can be reached by taking the Market-Frankford line and then either the 14 or the 84 Bus. For guests who choose to drive in, Steamfitters Local 420 are providing free

7. on-site parking for all attendees. MACH2 encourages guests who are driving to carpool where feasible.
8. Steamfitters Local 420. The co-signed letter takes issue with the event being held in the Steamfitters hall. It suggests that there is a bias for the Steamfitters to host this event and appears to indicate that there is a disconnect between labor and community.

The MACH2 team wants to be unequivocal on this point: We are an organization built from the ground up in partnership with labor and we categorically reject any attempts to suggest that labor and community are not the same. Steamfitters Local 420 alone represents over 4700 workers in and around Southeast PA. That's 4700 workers supporting their loved ones with 4700 family-sustaining union jobs in communities across our region.

At full build out, MACH2 is anticipated to lead to roughly 20,000 jobs created or retained in our region – the majority of which will be family-sustaining union jobs, meaning thousands more families across our region will be nurtured and supported as a direct result of our partnership with labor. Beyond the Steamfitters, we anticipate that this will lead to new jobs and new apprentice classes for Laborers, Carpenters, Electricians, Steelworkers, and possibly other unions as well.

To suggest that there is a lack of neutrality in selecting the Steamfitters Hall for this event is to miss the point that our commitment to apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and project-labor agreements was a major deciding factor in favor of MACH2 being awarded one of the seven Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs. No other hub is close to our level of partnership with or commitment to, our friends in the labor movement. We firmly believe that strong labor leads to strong communities, and MACH2 is here to prove to the other hubs across our nation, and to the world, that it is absolutely viable for private sector firms to engage in major industrial development projects in partnership with American labor.

To close, the MACH2 team would like to reiterate that we have already committed to an additional public event in Delaware County, PA later this Spring, and that we are ready to add more to the calendar upon request. Despite your letter in opposition we do hope that you are able to join us at the Steamfitters Hall on March 11th and look forward to opportunities for continued dialogue as MACH2 advances over the next decade.

Thank you,



Martin Wade, CEO

Cc MACH2 Board of Directors