

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS FOR MACH2 LEADERS

March 11, 2024

HOW ARE IMPACTED FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES & THE PUBLIC BEING FULLY & FAIRLY ENGAGED?

TODAY'S MEETING PROVES THEY ARE NOT!

Question 1

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question -

According to the Department of Energy funding, community engagement and voices are supposed to be a highest priority in the planning and decisionmaking process for MACH2 and all of the hydrogen hubs.

Given this obligation, why has there been no meeting in or with the frontline communities that will bear the burdens, scars and harms of the MACH2 proposal and all the associated industrial pollution and dangerous infrastructure it brings?

- Follow up question: You have not held a meeting for impacted communities to share their opinions, ideas, concerns, or questions in order to inform any of the MACH2 decisions that are already being made regarding the location of industries or operations related to the MACH2 hub.
- Follow up question: Every planning meeting you have held has been with those benefitting politically or economically from this project and they have all been out of the sight of impacted communities.
- Follow up question: Even this meeting is not about community input. It is about MACH2 pushing out industry messaging and for political heads like yourself to get up and get a photo op.

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Question 2

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question -

In the original abstract for MACH2 it is stated that blue hydrogen will be used (steam methane reforming powered by fracked gas with carbon capture). Yet we've been told that there is a new abstract that cancels all blue hydrogen. For months, we have been requesting a copy through the Freedom of Information Act of this new abstract and have never received it.

**Why won't you release this most basic information on MACH2?
Is it because you aren't telling the public the truth?**

- Follow up question: When will the new abstract be released confirming the hydrogen methods being used?
- Follow up Question: Or will you keep that secret until after it is carved in stone in your agreement with the Dept. of Energy?

Question 3

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question –

There are millions of dollars earmarked to go to various unions under the MACH2 hydrogen hub funding. The Steamfitters Union Local 140 may be one of them. That makes this Hall a location with a built-in bias of wholehearted support for MACH2. That is a clear and obvious conflict of interest.

Why didn't you hold this meeting in a public building like a library, school, or public office, where the venue would be neutral and equally welcoming to all people?

- Follow up question: Who picked the steamfitters union for this meeting and why?

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- Follow up question: Do you realize that choosing this location displays elitism?
- Follow up question: How can this be considered real “stakeholder” engagement?

Question 4

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question –

In a letter sent to DRN by MACH2 CEO Martin Wade in response to a letter of protest submitted by 32 groups about the unjust setup of this meeting today, it was stated that “when MACH2 starts breaking ground on individual projects” there would be community outreach.

But when you break ground is it not already far too late change the project if communities communicate their concerns?

- Follow up Response: DOE and MACH2 leaders have said environmental justice and securing meaningful input from environmental justice communities is a priority of this process. But what is absolutely obvious to all of us is that you are not interested in their input, ideas, concerns and questions. Instead you are presumptuously, and ignorantly, replaying history, layering the hub projects with their impacts on to communities without their consent and while they are kept in the dark.
- Follow up question: How can you set up such an unjust system that attempts to disenfranchise communities, especially environmental justice communities who are already overburdened?
- Follow up response: You are going in to these communities and TELLING them that you know what is good for them, that they need to trust you and let you do what you want to do in the places where they live, play, and where their children go to school.
- Follow up question - Please, tell us, how is this a just and engaging process?

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Question 5

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH 2 leaders I have a question -

Every time MACH2 leaders speak it becomes increasingly clear that you have had many many meetings with those that will benefit economically and/or politically from MACH2. And it is very clear that in these meetings, and as a result of these meetings, you are already making construction, industry, and pollution decisions that will have indelible impacts on the communities that would have these industrial operations and elements forced upon them.

When will impacted communities and the public learn the specifics and details of what was discussed and decided at these meetings, including who attended and what they said?

- Follow up question: Did anyone take notes of these meetings?
- Follow up question: Were there sign in sheets?
- Follow up question: When will these detail be released to the public?
- Follow up question: How are the Shapiro and Parker administrations ensuring that communities are being met with in a respectful and truly heard manner? To ensure that a conversation with communities is not simply a box to be checked with their input never truly being taken into account?

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question -

For many community members who live in the places where MACH2 projects would be built, it is at least a 1 ½ hour commute if they were to come by public transportation to this meeting. It would require both a train ride and a bus ride, and then a more than ½ mile walk, or an uber ride they would have to pay for.

How many vehicles did you have to take in order to get here? Just one car with a driver I presume.

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- Follow up question: Did you pay for a bus or charter vans that could bring people from the most impacted communities? NO you did not, but the communities have done that for themselves at their own expense.

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question - Given that community engagement is supposed to be a priority, why did you schedule this meeting during the work week and work day so people would have to miss work, and potentially give up a day's pay, in order to be here?

- Follow up question: Why didn't MACH2 pick a time that was after working hours so everyday working people with jobs could attend?
- Follow up question: Why wasn't there an option for attending the meeting virtually, such as through zoom?
- Follow up question: Was childcare considered for people who would have to make other arrangements? Will any assistance be offered for those who have now had to shell out extra money they may not have to make sure their kids could be cared for to be here?

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question - Why were you afraid today to take your hydrogen hub MACH2 message to the communities that will be most impacted by what you are planning but instead are forcing them to miss work and travel long distances to come to you?

- Follow up question: Do you really think it is appropriate that this meeting is being held here, at the Steamfitters union hall, 25 miles or more away from the communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware that are going to be most directly impacted by MACH2?
- Follow up Response: And don't say you are planning another meeting in Delaware County or south Philadelphia this spring. That does not by any measure make up for the insult this meeting is to the communities that have

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to go to extraordinary measures and considerable expense to get here today.

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, Mach 2 leaders I have a question –

We would like to know how you have met the Dept. of Energy's mandate that communities be fully engaged when even this meeting wasn't publicly announced until the public found out about it and blew the whistle.

Why shouldn't MACH2 be given a big F grade for community engagement? That is certainly the grade we give MACH2 and every politician here who has supported this meeting with all of its many many community engagement failings.

- Follow up question: Does the method you used of public notification of this meeting not seem thoughtless and uncaring to you?
- Follow up question: How is this not going to reflect terribly on you in the eyes of the Dept. of Energy who demands robust community engagement as a pillar of the hydrogen hubs?
- Follow up question: The MACH2 website posting was even hard to find - it requires one to scroll way down the page with small text that one can easily miss?

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, Mach 2 leaders I have a question –

Given that community engagement is supposed to be a priority, and given this meeting is so far away from the communities that are going to be most impacted,

What did you do to ensure that impacted community members could be here today?

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- Follow up question: Why did you make this meeting convenient for those who have a car to drive here but extremely difficult for people dependent on public transportation?

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH 2 leaders I have a question -

Throughout this hydrogen hub process we are being told by Collin O'Mara and every politician that has anything to say about this that community engagement is a priority.

So, please tell us now, the names of all of the community groups and communities you have engaged in open public meetings so far?

- Follow up question: How are you ensuring you are communicating with these groups in an open process
- Follow up question: Also, please, tell us how many, and which, unions, academic institutions, and other politicians you have met with?

Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, MACH2 leaders I have a question - MACH2 is supposed to be clean and green and yet your website states that you will be combusting hydrogen, which increases Nitrogen Oxides in the air.

How can you call MACH2 clean when it will cause pollution and worsen the climate emergency we are already facing?

- Follow up Response: NOx negatively impacts peoples' lungs and heart, impairs neurological development. We already have way too much, especially in the frontline communities in Philadelphia, Chester and Marcus Hook. NOx also causes smog which is unhealthy and increases atmospheric warming, worsening the climate crisis.

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Question

Governor Shapiro, Senator Casey, Mach 2 leaders I have a question - Hydrogen is an indirect greenhouse gas that prolongs the heat-trapping impact of methane and it leaks uncontrollably even more than methane.

Why are you wasting so much energy to make hydrogen when you know it is NOT a climate friendly energy solution?

- Follow up Response: No matter how you make it, whether green, blue, or pink hydrogen, it will undermine the goal of reducing greenhouse gasses and it will further magnify and accelerate climate catastrophe.
- Follow up question: Why aren't you fully considering the potential greenhouse gas effect of leaked hydrogen on the climate?
- Follow up question: Why don't you focus first and primarily on developing truly clean renewable energy and using it directly to electrify across the entire economy?