



## **An open letter to the Clean Energy Ministerial: Welcome to Pittsburgh, where the future is green and clean!**

*The Clean Energy Ministerial consists of the world's largest and leading countries, international organizations, and companies working to accelerate the transition to clean energy. The CEM is hosting their **Global Clean Energy Action Forum** in Pittsburgh September 21st - 23rd.*

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The Clean Energy Ministerial made a great choice hosting the Global Clean Energy Action Forum here. As local leaders and residents, we are excited to showcase our region to the world. Pittsburgh is a place where hard work and innovation go hand-in-hand. For years, western Pennsylvania proudly fueled America's prosperity. Now, we're ready to do it again.

Western PA boasts an extensive skilled workforce that can be utilized to build renewable energy infrastructure, and we have an untapped opportunity to unlock the job creation and emissions-reduction potential of widespread energy efficiency. Our region has also emerged as a hub for sustainability research. We're ready for clean energy solutions that are good for workers, good for families and good for our climate.

We can have a clean energy future that powers our lives at home and work, creates quality jobs with good wages – jobs from the trades or right out of high school – and frees us from fossil fuels.

Families across PA and right here in Allegheny County have been working hard to disrupt the damage to our climate caused by extractive industries. The Allegheny County Council vote to ban fracking in county parks was supported by an outpouring of community comments, and reflects the overwhelming desire among Pennsylvanians for a crackdown on fracking.

Unfortunately, we've also been hearing a lot of talk about carbon capture and hydrogen deployment. Hydrogen derived from fossil fuels and carbon capture and sequestration are prohibitively expensive solutions that would perpetuate the same boom and bust industries that have proven themselves to be structurally incapable of delivering job growth and economic prosperity to our region while also causing air and water pollution and other adverse impacts, that are driving population loss and inhibiting our communities' ability to diversify their economies and improve quality of life. Hydrogen and CCUS aren't scalable or proven to be safe, effective, or even job-creating, and would lock us into a future with continued dependence on fossil fuels. We hope that the Clean Energy Ministerial will instead focus on proposals that invest in true clean energy strategies like renewables - which are cheap, safe, and clean.

Transitioning to renewable energy resources including wind and solar power, energy efficiency, green and pink hydrogen, and storage technologies would bring tens of thousands of safe, family-sustaining jobs to Pennsylvanians, while protecting our families' and children's health. By putting the families and working people of this region first, the CEM has the unique



opportunity to promote solutions that bring prosperity to our communities and hope for a cleaner and safer future.

Joanne Kilgour, Executive Director, Ohio River Valley Institute

Pittsburgh City Council member Deborah Gross

Pittsburgh City Council member Erika Strassburgher

Pittsburgh City Council member Bobby Wilson

Allegheny County Council member Olivia Bennett

Allegheny County Council member Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis

Allegheny County Council member at-large Bethany Hallam

Allegheny County Council member Anita Prizio

PA State Rep. Dan Frankel

PA State Rep. Sara Innamorato

PA State Rep. Emily Kinhead

PA State Rep. Summer Lee