

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Governor Shapiro's Challenge to Federal Funding Freeze

Lawsuit would unlock funding for thousands of jobs in industrial decarbonization, well and mine reclamation, home energy programs

JOHNSTOWN, Pennsylvania — *In response to Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's federal funding freeze, Ohio River Valley Institute Executive Director Joanne Kilgour issued the following statement:*

Every Pennsylvanian, no matter where we live, what we look like, or what we do for work, deserves clean air, a safe community, and opportunities to build a good life. But the Trump Administration's decision to freeze critical federal funding that was already awarded to Pennsylvanians threatens these basic rights and puts our health, our jobs, and our future at risk.

Governor Josh Shapiro is [taking action](#) to defend the resources that working families across Pennsylvania count on. Our modeling shows that freezing funds for RISE PA, abandoned mine land reclamation, orphaned well plugging, and home energy programs also means freezing the creation of over 8,500 good-paying Pennsylvanian jobs. These programs also ensure that people in every corner of our state, from small towns to big cities, can live and work without being exposed to disease-causing pollution and economic hardship. These funds help us clean up dangerous, toxic industrial sites that have harmed our communities for generations, invest in new industries that secure long-term prosperity, and move us toward a cleaner, fairer energy future.

Shapiro's lawsuit defends up to \$2.1 billion in funding, including funds for:

- **RISE PA:** The commonwealth's \$396 million industrial decarbonization grant program has enormous potential to create thousands of jobs and slash emissions in "hard-to-decarbonize" industries, offsetting and de-risking needed investment to build healthier communities and a stronger economy. Defending RISE PA funding could create upwards of 6,000 new jobs installing and maintaining decarbonization equipment.
- **Repairing legacy damage from the fossil fuel industry:** Remediating abandoned mine lands and plugging leaky, orphaned oil and gas wells curbs methane emissions and makes our communities cleaner and safer. Federal funding supports around 1,000 direct abandoned mine land reclamation jobs annually and roughly 900 well-plugging jobs in energy communities across the Commonwealth.
- **Energy efficiency and weatherization programs for low-income homes:** Replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems, windows, and insulation in low-income homes

across the Commonwealth would provide jobs for HVAC workers, plumbers, electricians, and general contractors and save households hundreds of dollars on utility bills for years to come.

By blocking these funds, the Trump Administration is putting politics before people, compromising real progress to improve the lives of hardworking families. But in Pennsylvania, we believe in looking out for each other, making sure every worker has access to good jobs, and protecting the air and water we all rely on. We stand with Governor Shapiro in calling for an end to this reckless freeze and the immediate release of the funding that rightfully belongs to Pennsylvanians.

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