

March 9, 2018

Dear City of Seattle Council Members:

Small businesses across the city are writing to you today to urge you to reconsider the recommendations from the Progressive Revenue Taskforce on the Employee Hours Tax and any consideration of a proposed Employee Hours Tax legislation on Seattle businesses. We are disappointed that once again small business leaders were never consulted for input, facts or information about the real challenges we face.

The discussion that small businesses needed a “skin in the game” fee of \$395 reflects no appreciation for our reality or for the burden that affordability and rising taxes and fees puts on us. The proposed “skin in the game” fee was set during a Progressive Revenue Taskforce group discussion not by data, but by a conversation of how much was “enough” and then literally reduced from \$400 to \$395 as a “psychological discount”. This recommendation is an irresponsible way to set tax policy.

For the area’s businesses, the homelessness crisis is immediate and personal-- experienced from our homes and our businesses-- and we are eager to play a role-- even a leadership role-- in realizing solutions. But the notion that this problem can be solved solely or principally by taxing individuals and institutions that employ people is regressive in terms of both viability and equitability. It is pure rhetoric to call a tax “progressive” when the way to avoid it is to eliminate jobs.

As business owners in Seattle we are aware, compassionate and concerned about our regional homeless crisis. Make no mistake – we know the need to resolve this issue is urgent. We find the proposed recommendations for the Employee Hours Tax to generate additional funding for the crisis to be unreasonable. This ongoing and growing issue in our community requires our attention and energy to focus on a resolution, with clear pathways and a long term strategic plan that will bring an end to this crisis, hopefully with permanent solutions to housing, mental health management and employment for those in need. It continues to be clear that the City of Seattle cannot continue to bear so much of the costs and weight of this issue – a solution should be regional.

While we know this crisis must be addressed with urgency for an immediate and permanent resolution, it is critical that a comprehensive plan detailing significant and sustainable improvement methods must be produced before any new revenue is created. This is a regional problem and the costs, be they financial or otherwise, should be borne by ALL of our region’s cities and stakeholders. Currently, the city has no strategic plan or clearly defined outcome, and the amount of taxes proposed are not based on any real financial or economic data. In short,

\$1.5 billion in new taxes over ten years has been created – with no plan or analysis on need or spending. Last fall, \$25 million was requested, without a strategic plan. This year, \$75 million is sought and there is still no conclusive pathway forward. The total funding needed to alleviate this crisis can't be determined until we know how those funds will be used.

In the past three years, Seattle employers supported a progressive increased minimum wage (still an ongoing increase for many of us), mandated paid sick and safe time, a secure scheduling ordinance, and the most progressive Paid Family and Medical Leave program in the nation. A significant increase in B & O taxes and business license fees were imposed. All the while we continue to grapple with increased rents, increased property taxes and the all too frequent uncoordinated construction projects negatively impacting many of our businesses. If City Council is going to discuss a “progressive” new revenue source on businesses, it's unfair to not also address the regressive and unreasonable nature of the B&O tax and the other burdens that are put on business owners every day.

Small businesses are the bedrock of our city, employing 60% of the city's workforce. Through taxation, businesses will provide nearly 60 percent of the city's total general fund budget. We are a large contributor to Seattle's economic growth, while working hard to bring vitality, a sense of place, and diversity to our neighborhoods. Continuing tax increases and regulations will only hurt the small business community and will vastly change our city.

We urge the City Council to slow down, engage with more stakeholders, and work toward creating a feasible regional plan with the State and County, before seeking revenue. The revenue source that is being recommended by the Progressive Revenue Task Force and considered at the City Council directly impacts all businesses across the city however, few businesses have been brought in to the process. If conversations around this topic continue – we ask that the Small Business Advisory Council input be considered, and that more small businesses are asked to participate in real conversation about how we work to solve the homeless crisis in the city and not just create a new tax on businesses. It is beneficial for everyone in this city to participate in solving the homeless crisis. If done thoughtfully and responsibly, it will result in a more viable and better outcome. Taxing businesses for employing people, is not a viable and sustainable part of this solutions.

Sincerely,

1	Joe Fugere	Tutta Bella, Small Business Advisory Council Co-Chair
2	Taylor Hoang	Pho Cylo Café, Small Business Advisory Council Co-Chair
3	Tracy Taylor	Elliott Bay Book Co, Small Business Advisory Council Co-Chair

4 Donna Moodie
 5 Zach Euse
 6 Lee Ching Tran
 7 Alejandro Crisafi
 8 Andy Wagenbrenner
 9 Angela Cough
 10 Angela Rae
 11 Bella Sangar

 12 Brian Anderson
 13 Brian Pelzel
14 Brian Wells
 15 Bruce Butterfield
 16 Camilla Poage
 17 Christy McDanold
 18 Dan Wiseman
 19 Diana Naramore
 20 Diane Bundrant
 21 Diane Macrae
22 Emily Mabus
 23 Evan Anders
 24 Francine Katz & Peter Riches
 25 Jamie Jockwig
 26 Jeffry Silva

 27 Joni Buckner
28 Kari Brunson
29 Karyn Schwartz
 30 Kirk Keppler
 31 Kristie & Peter Kisby
 32 Lance Rosebrook Stauffer
 33 Liberte Liberte
 34 Lisa Renoe
 35 Lynn Sweeney
 36 Lynn Sweeney
 37 Lynn Sweeney
 38 Maggie & Leigh Burns
 39 Manuel Alfau

 40 Marcia Chittenden
 41 Marjorie and Mark Fuller
 42 Marshall Jett
 43 Nicole Vandermeulen
 44 Randy Brinker

**Marjorie Restaurants, Small Business Advisory
 Council Co-Chair**

Exact Electric LLC
 Viet Wah Group
 Fit 36
 The Mailbox
 Flying Apron
 Kick It Boots

 Quail Park Memory Care Residence
 of West Seattle
 Blue Plate Digital
Tougo Coffee
 Real Estate Broker
 Eyre and Fini
 Secret Garden Bookstore
 Wiseman's Appliances
 Sip and Ship
 His Word Found Here
 Venue Ballard
Other Coast Cafe
 Columbia City Bakery
 Lucca Great Finds
 Baraa Gemstones and Jewelry
 Real Estate Broker

 Head to Toe Day Spa & Skincare
Jukebox and Frankie and Joe's
The Sugar Pill
 Wyatt's Jewelers
 Annie's Art & Frame
 Market Street Shoes
 Liberte Beauty
 Chocolate Krak
 Dearnborn Lumber Co
 Alki Lumber & Hardware
 The Grove West Seattle
 Re-Soul
 Bodega
 Chittenden House Bed and
 Breakfast
 Ma'ano
 Verachi Pizza
 Chameleon design
 Sweet Mickey's

45	Rebecca Barrows	D'Ambrosio Gelato
46	Rob Shiras	IT Headquarters
47	Sabrina Tinsley	La Spiga
48	Taichi Kitamura	Sushi Kappo Tamura
49	Jon and Shannon Felix	Avalon Glassworks
50	Amy Ecklund	Amy Works
51	Chi Dang	Than Brothers Restaurant
52	Don Riling	Olympic Hot Tubs
53	John Moore	NW Insurance Group
54	Louise Hansen	Wezee's Plumbing
55	Phuong Nguyen	Hue Ky Mi Gia
56	Roy Dubrow	British Motor Coach
57	Valerie Myers CPA	New Paradigm CFO
58	Nicole Curry	Paris Services with a Smile
59	Elise Lindborg, Kelli Henderson	ZippyDogs
60	Lien Dang	Huong Binh Restaurant
61	Peddler Brewing	Haley Keller
62	Scott Andersen	CSR Marine
		Madres Kitchen,
63	Heather Chitty	KitchenSisters
64	Kelly Guenther	Guenther Group, Inc.
65	Barbara Grant	Crux Consulting Consortium
66	Nga Pham	Chu Minh Tofu
67	Roy A, Hamrick,	CFA Hamrick Investment Counsel, LLC
68	Jaebadiah S. Gardner	GardnerGlobal, Inc.
69	Le-Uyen Dang	Than Trong Restaurant
		DC Devine Chiropractic & Rehab Center
70	James A Devine	
		Picket Fence Real Estate
71	Diane Coyne	
72	John Rubino	GreenRubino
73	Michele Gomes	InterChange Media Art Productions, LLC
74	Dani Cone	Fuel, Cone and Steiner, Hi Five Pie
75	George Hancock	Maritime Pacific Brewing Company
76	Danielle Hilton	Ada's Technical Books
77	Lindsey Runyon	Lindsey Runyon Design and Bellefleur Lingerie
78	Liz Elkins	Poquitos
79	Kathy Tran	Seattle Nail Supply
80	Amanda Bedell	Nuflours Bakery
81	Ross Kling	Rainbow Natural Remedies
		The Hawaii General Store & Gallery and HGS
82	Gail Stringer	Travel
83	Annette Heide -Jessen	Kaffeeklatsch
84	Tam Nguyen	Thanh Tam Restaurant

85	Lara Zahaba	Stoup Brewing
86	Gay Gilmore	Optimism Brewing Company
87	Beto Yarce	Ventures
88	I-Muin Lui	Eastern Café, Oasis Coffee
89	Leigh Stone	Crybaby Studios
90	David Tran	Lam's Seafood
91	Joey Burgess	Guild Seattle Restaurants & Bars
92	Terry Storms	DCG One
93	Diana Adams	Vermillion Art Gallery.
94	Shaiza Damji	360 Hotel Group
		Tamarind Tree Restaurant, Long Provincial Restaurant
95	Tam Nguyen	Pho So 1
96	Thang Nguyen	Urban Development
97	Rob Brewster	Evergreen POS
98	Jesse Banks	Thanh Son Tofu
99	Hung Tran	Trichome LLC
100	Richard Saguin	Gregg's Cycle
101	Stan Gregg	Ballard Oil Company
102	Debbie Millard	Marinations
103	Kamala Saxton, Roz Edison	Girin restaurants
104	Cody Burns	Rachel's Ginger Beer
105	Rachel Marshall	Elliott Bay Brewing Co.
106	Todd Carden	The Confectional, LLC
107	Destiny Sund, Paul Verano	The Derschang Group
108	Jen Engles-Klann	Evergreens
109	Ryan Suddendorf	Percy's & Co, San Fermo
110	Tim Baker	Kigo Asian Kitchen
111	Steven Hooper Jr.	Kidd Valley
112	Bob Donegan	Bitterroot, Mammoth
113	Hannah Carter, Grant Carter	Tango Restaurant, Rumba, Sand Point Gril
114	Travis Rosenthal	Glimexco
115	Alain Bwabrey	Cainrcross & Hempelmann PS
116	Matt Hanna	Sound Community Bank
117	Laurie Stewart	Nijo Sushi
118	Jasmine Mac	University Book Store, Inc.
119	Louise Little	Coffman Engineers, Inc
120	Arvind Nerurkar	Madrona Dog Company, LLC
121	Susan Fondren	Pipe And Row
122	Kayla Boehme	Tides & Pines
123	Jordan Voth	Division Road, Inc.
124	Jason Pecarich	Johnson & Johnson Antiques
125	Marjie Johnson	Pike Grocery and Deli
126	Michael Danford	

127 Lauren Adler
 128 Lara Olsha
 129 Molly Boone-Jones
 130 Ken Oshi
 131 Karla Esquivel
 132 Gayle Nowicki
133 Michael Ohlenroth
 134 Ngoc Bich Jewelry
 135 D. Craig Norberry
136 Yuki Sodos
137 Jeff Pelletier
 138 Hyuna Joana Chong
 139 Ryan Glant
 140 Todd Biesold
 141 Carlos A. Ortiz
 142 Lenka Mittelbach
 143 Amanda O'Rourke
 144 Brad Miller
 145 jen Crofton
 146 Christopher T Benis
 147 Bill Weise
 148 Jerry Raine
 149 Gerald Centioli
 150 Chuck McKeever
 annie Davis, Suzanne Royer
 151 McCone
 152 David & Jennifer O'Neal
 153 Clark Shaefer
 154 Pam Pearson
 155 A-P Hurd
 156 Tom Odell
 157 Edwin Shepherd III
 158 Steve Vincent
 Phil Laube, Mary Anne Petesch,
 James Ramborger, Sabin Pradhan,
 Bradley Kirschner, Jennifer Rinker,
 159 Bryson Hatch
 160 Chuck Nelson
 161 Craig Schafer
 162 Estela Raychaudhuri
 163 James Carter
 164 Patricia Cacabelos
 165 Anthony Ridnell

Chocopolopolis
 The Sweet Spot, Inc.
 Seattle Custom Framing
 Teriyaki shop
 Andaluz
 Gargoyles Statuary
Wall of Sound
 Ngoc Bich Dang
 Norberry Tile
Pettirosso & Bang Bang Café
Board & Vellum
 CA Sweets LLC
 Glant Pacific Companies
 Merlino Foods
 CAZA Media
 Alternative Suites International LLC
 Greenwood, Ohlund & Co. LLP
 Honda of Seattle / Toyota of Seattle
 BrunswikSt. LLC
 Harrison-Benis, LLP
 Silver Cloud Hotel - Seattle Stadium
 Turgeon Raine Jewellers, Inc.
 ICON Inc.
 United Western Supply

 Annie's Nannies, Inc.
 Live Oak Audio Visual Inc.
 MEECO Manufacturing Company, Inc.
 KCPQ-TV
 SkipStone
 MHT Insurance
 Shepherd Family Chiropractic
 Puget Sound Bank

 Hagen, Kurth Perman & Co.
 Washington Athletic Club
 Hotel Andra
 InBios International Inc.
 Carter Consulting
 United Insurance Brokers Inc.
 International, Inc.

166	Cheryl Mangio, Julia Obien	Yamaguchi Obien Mangio, LLC
167	Ben Foster	Ben's Plumbing
168	Nancy Porrino	Cycling Through Clinical Research, LLC
169	Matthew Joelson	Shea Staffing LLC
170	Mikkel Jacobsen	Carsoe US Inc.
171	Kimberly Kean	Gene Johnson Plumbing & Heating
172	Liz Dunn	Dunn & Hobbes LLC
	Melissa Bathum, Kori Monson,	
173	Quincy Henry	Freemind Seattle
174	Richard Waller	United Electric Motors
175	Jeff Lewis	Pacific Rim Environmental, Inc.
176	Susan Sullivan	Sullivan Kennedy Consulting
177	Kathy Shingleton	Virginia Mason Medical Center
178	Les Biller	Harborview Capital
	Zoehana Minkove, Chai Mann, Joy	
179	Thai Mann	Fox's Gem Shop's Inc.
180	Stanley B McCammon	Joshua Green Corporation
181	Kandie Jennings	Tom's Automotive Service
182	Debbie Crandall	Parker Staffing Services, LLC
183	Rene Neidhart	Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Madison Hotel LLC
184	Charles Stempler	Alphaprint Inc.
185	P. Troy Sorensen	Sorensen Consulting LLC
186	Diane Geller Moan	Dahlia Natural Health Clinic
187	Terence Tung	Luna Kitchen and Bath
188	Bill Sechter	ATLAS Workbase
189	Paul Abel	Homestreet Bank
190	Adam Simon	Sensibility Squared LLC
191	Ella Grogan	Laboratory Design & Construction Inc.
192	Teresa Carew	On Safari Foods, Inc.
193	Dave Kelly	Asko Processing Inc.
194	Steve Herman	Trutina Financial LLC
	Ginny Gilder, Lisa Brummel, Dawn	
195	Trudeau	Seattle Storm, Force 10 Enterprises, LLC
196	Krijn de Jonge	Queen Anne Book Company
197	Mason Hebert	Lottie's Lounge; Jude's
198	Christiana Maia Matthews	Trilogy Chiropractic
199	Fred Russo	Fred Russo Accupuncture
200	Nicole Koss	Bulldog Medical Billing
201	Lora Swift	West Seattle Junction Association
202	Robert Rebar	Rebar & Associates, PLLC
203	Julia Ensley	Bosnik International Inc. dba Zamboanga
204	Steve Medalia	Small Business Insurance Advocacy Network
205	Lisa McNelis	McNelis Architects

206	Be Nguyen	Be's Restaurant
207	Terry Gangon	Gangon Insurance Agency Inc.
208	Jill Bruyere	Fitness Revolution
209	Lisa Myers	CAPERS Home
210	Dianna Winegarden	HeyThrivv
211	Paul Silver	LaVida Massage, West Seattle
212	Tyler McKenzie	John L. Scott Real Estate West Seattle
213	David D'Hondt	AGC of Washington
214	Sara Nelson & Matt Lincecum	Fremont Brewing
215	Craig Dawson	Retail Lockbox, Inc.
216	Carlos Alcabes	Also Inc. dba Sleepers in Seattle
217	Glen Simecek	Washington Bankers Association
218	Lee Keller	The Keller Group
219	Daniel Rasmussen	Pinnacle Integrative Health
220	W. Paul Grant	PanGEO, Inc.
221	Mike Ellis	Sound Advice dba Verizon West Seattle
222	John Smersh	Smersh Design, Inc. dba Click! Design That Fits
223	Kristin Stoddard	Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC
224	David Hein	OKI Golf
225	Mark D.Swanson	Don Swanson Insurance, Inc.
226	Brian F Carter AIA	Integrus Architecture
227	Rodney Kuhn	Envision Telephony, Inc.
228	Stacie Yale	Courtesy Accounting
229	Angela & Ethan Stowell	Ethan Stowell Restaurants
230	Bob Nuber	Clark Nuber P.S.
231	Robert Wallace	Wallace Properties, Inc.
232	James R. Blissett	The Design Collective
233	Brian T. Duffy	Duffy Wealth Management
234	Abby Fisher	White Center Glass
235	Allen Chen	Schooley Mitchell
236	Amy Lang	Birds & Bees & Kids
237	Anne and Clarence	Higuera Ventana Construction
238	Anne Phyfe Palmer	8 Limbs Yoga Centers
239	Christian Harris	Sea-Town Real Estate
240	Christian Snell	Downtown House Cleaning
241	Dan Austin	Peel & Press
242	Dani Cone	Cone & Steiner - Fuel Coffee
	Dave Flatman, Bryan Krieger,	
243	Chris Jones	Screwdriver Bar
	Dawn Ackerman & George	
244	Pieper	OutSmart Office Solutions, Inc.
245	Deborah Read	MOTR, ErgoGirl!
246	Eli Allison	Repair Revolution

247	Eric C. Paulus Fran Dunaway and Naomi	Eric's Garage Inc.
248	Gonzalez	TomboyX
249	Geoffrey Mac McElroy Hamilton H. Gardiner, Jason	Mac's Triangle Pub
250	Bergevin	Holmquist + Gardiner PLLC
251	Heidi Herr	Bird on a Wire, Admiral Bird Cafe, South Park Hall
252	Jami VlachosJami	Hudson Life Design
253	Jason Rathburn Jean-Pierre Vidican, Paul	Rathburn Automotive
254	Ritums	The West, The West Roosevelt
255	Jerome M Bader	Blue Guardrail Marketing Agency
256	Jerome O. Cohen	Attorney at Law
257	Jill Nelson Jon and Vanessa LeMaster	Hot Diggity Pet Sitting
258	, Jules Maes,	The Tin Hat, Noble Barton
259	Kandie Jennings	Tom's Automotive
260	Kiera M. Silva	Real Estate Broker
261	Lauren Burgon	Law Office of Lauren Burgon
262	Leslie Lippi Linda Di Lello Morton and	B-BAM!
263	Tamara Murphy	Terra Plata
264	Lisa Michaud	Two Big Blondes Plus Size Consignment
265	Luie Mierzwiak	Real Fine Coffee
266	Malika Siddiq	Lika Love
267	Marcee Hanan	Buyer's Advantage, Inc.
268	Mark Burr & Tom Stevens	Jellyfish Brewing Company, LLC
269	Marti Hoffer	Lumenomics, Inc.
270	Mason Hebert Matt Lincecum and Sara	Jude's Old Town, Lottie's Lounge
271	Nelson	Fremont Brewing Emmick Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services
272	Michael K. Emmick	Pivar Financial Group
273	Michael Pivar	Montgomery Mobile LLC
274	Joshua Montgomery	Eldercare Consulting, LLC
275	Patricia Throop	Prentice Design LLC
276	Paul Prentice	Arthur's
277	Rebecca Rice	Marceau Pipe Organs, Inc.
278	Rene A. Marceau	The Bridge
279	Rita Dixon	Nyhus Communication
280	Roger Nyhus	H+dIT Collaborative
281	S. Michael Hoffman, AIA	9lb Hammer,
282	Scott Harrell	2 MISSION CANTINA
283	Shawn Pedro	

284	Stu Hennessey Timothy Narby and Carol	Alki Bicycle Co
285	Bryant Nota	Bene Cellars
286	Tina Padilla, Peter Morse	Mission Cantina
287	Tom Lang	Resource ISWP
288	Toni Cameron, CPATL;DR:	Accounting
289	Travis Stanley	Jones Mulleadys Irish Pub
290	Vanessa Carr	Care at Home Seattle
291	Venita Longley	Longley Property Mgmt, Inc.
292	Wassef Haroun	Mamnoon
293	West 5 Dave	Montoure
294	Yuki Sodos	Pettirosso & Big Bang Cafe
295	Laura Culberg	The Sweatbox
296	Chris Engdahl	Lantern Brewing LLC
297	Cyndal Ellenberger	NW Permits
298	Kirby Kallas Lewis	OOLA Distillery
299	Ian MacNeil	Glass Distillery
300	Justin Shaheen	Pilgrim Coffee
301	Amanda Bevill	WorldSpice Merchants

