

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	Marjorie Restaurants, Small Business Advisory Council Co-Chair
5	Zach Euse	Exact Electric LLC
6	Lee Ching Tran	Viet Wah Group

7	Alejandro Crisafi	Fit 36
8	Andy Wagenbrenner	The Mailbox
9	Angela Cough	Flying Apron
10	Angela Rae	Kick It Boots
11	Bella Sangar	
12	Brian Anderson	Quail Park Memory Care Residence of West Seattle
13	Brian Pelzel	Blue Plate Digital
14	Brian Wells	Tougo Coffee
15	Bruce Butterfield	Real Estate Broker
16	Camilla Poage	Eyre and Fini
17	Christy McDanold	Secret Garden Bookstore
18	Dan Wiseman	Wiseman's Appliances
19	Diana Naramore	Sip and Ship
20	Diane Bundrant	His Word Found Here
21	Diane Macrae	Venue Ballard
22	Emily Mabus	Other Coast Cafe
23	Evan Anders	Columbia City Bakery
24	Francine Katz & Peter Riches	Lucca Great Finds
25	Jamie Jockwig	Baraa Gemstones and Jewelry
26	Jeffry Silva	Real Estate Broker
27	Joni Buckner	Head to Toe Day Spa & Skincare
28	Kari Brunson	Jukebox and Frankie and Joe's
29	Karyn Schwartz	The Sugar Pill
30	Kirk Keppler	Wyatt's Jewelers
31	Kristie & Peter Kisby	Annie's Art & Frame
32	Lance Rosebrook Stauffer	Market Street Shoes
33	Liberte Liberte	Liberte Beauty
34	Lisa Renoe	Chocolate Krak
35	Lynn Sweeney	Dearnborn Lumber Co
36	Lynn Sweeney	Alki Lumber & Hardware
37	Lynn Sweeney	The Grove West Seattle
38	Maggie & Leigh Burns	Re-Soul
39	Manuel Alfau	Bodega
40	Marcia Chittenden	Chittenden House Bed and Breakfast
41	Marjorie and Mark Fuller	Ma'ano
42	Marshall Jett	Verachi Pizza
43	Nicole Vandermeulen	Chameleon design
44	Randy Brinker	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, KitchenSisters
63	Heather Chitty	
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
95	Tam Nguyen	Tamarind Tree Restaurant, Long Provincial Restaurant
96	Thang Nguyen	Pho So 1
97	Rob Brewster	Urban Development
98	Jesse Banks	Evergreen POS
99	Hung Tran	Thanh Son Tofu
100	Richard Saguin	Trichome LLC
101	Stan Gregg	Gregg's Cycle
102	Debbie Millard	Ballard Oil Company
103	Kamala Saxton, Roz Edison	Marinations
104	Cody Burns	Girin restaurants
105	Rachel Marshall	Rachel's Ginger Beer
106	Todd Carden	Elliott Bay Brewing Co.
107	Destiny Sund, Paul Verano	The Confectional, LLC
108	Jen Engles-Klann	The Derschang Group
109	Ryan Suddendorf	Evergreens
110	Tim Baker	Percy's & Co, San Fermo
111	Steven Hooper Jr.	Kigo Asian Kitchen
112	Bob Donegan	Kidd Valley
113	Hannah Carter, Grant Carter	Bitterroot, Mammoth
114	Travis Rosenthal	Tango Restaurant, Rumba, Sand Point Gril
115	Alain Bwabrey	Glimexco
116	Matt Hanna	Cainrcross & Hempelmann PS
117	Laurie Stewart	Sound Community Bank
118	Jasmine Mac	Nijo Sushi
119	Louise Little	University Book Store, Inc.
120	Arvind Nerurkar	Coffman Engineers, Inc
121	Susan Fondren	Madrona Dog Company, LLC
122	Kayla Boehme	Pipe And Row
123	Jordan Voth	Tides & Pines
124	Jason Pecarich	Division Road, Inc.
125	Marjie Johnson	Johnson & Johnson Antiques
126	Michael Danford	Pike Grocery and Deli
127	Lauren Adler	Chocolopolis
128	Lara Olsha	The Sweet Spot, Inc.
129	Molly Boone-Jones	Seattle Custom Framing
130	Ken Oshi	Teriyaki shop

131	Karla Esquivel	Andaluz
132	Gayle Nowicki	Gargoyles Statuary
133	Michael Ohlenroth	Wall of Sound
134	Ngoc Bich Jewelry	Ngoc Bich Dang
135	D. Craig Norberry	Norberry Tile
136	Yuki Sodos	Pettiroso & Bang Bang Café
137	Jeff Pelletier	Board & Vellum
138	Hyuna Joana Chong	CA Sweets LLC
139	Ryan Glant	Glant Pacific Companies
140	Todd Biesold	Merlino Foods
141	Carlos A. Ortiz	CAZA Media
142	Lenka Mittelbach	Alternative Suites International LLC
143	Amanda O'Rourke	Greenwood, Ohlund & Co. LLP
144	Brad Miller	Honda of Seattle / Toyota of Seattle
145	jen Crofton	BrunswikSt. LLC
146	Christopher T Benis	Harrison-Benis, LLP
147	Bill Weise	Silver Cloud Hotel - Seattle Stadium
148	Jerry Raine	Turgeon Raine Jewellers, Inc.
149	Gerald Centioli	ICON Inc.
150	Chuck McKeever	United Western Supply
	annie Davis, Suzanne Royer	
151	McCone	Annie's Nannies, Inc.
152	David & Jennifer O'Neal	Live Oak Audio Visual Inc.
153	Clark Shaefer	MEECO Manufacturing Company, Inc.
154	Pam Pearson	KCPQ-TV
155	A-P Hurd	SkipStone
156	Tom Odell	MHT Insurance
157	Edwin Shepherd III	Shepherd Family Chiropractic
158	Steve Vincent	Puget Sound Bank
	Phil Laube, Mary Anne Petesch, James Ramborger, Sabin Pradhan, Bradley Kirschner, Jennifer Rinker,	
159	Bryson Hatch	Hagen, Kurth Perman & Co.
160	Chuck Nelson	Washington Athletic Club
161	Craig Schafer	Hotel Andra
162	Estela Raychaudhuri	InBios International Inc.
163	James Carter	Carter Consulting
164	Patricia Cacabelos	United Insurance Brokers Inc.
165	Anthony Ridnell	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	Eric's Garage Inc.
	Fran Dunaway and Naomi	
248	Gonzalez	TomboyX
249	Geoffrey Mac McElroy	Mac's Triangle Pub



	Hamilton H. Gardiner, Jason	
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	Rathburn Automotive
	Jean-Pierre Vidican, Paul	
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	Hot Diggity Pet Sitting
	Jon and Vanessa LeMaster	
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	B-BAM!
	Linda Di Lello Morton and	
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	Jude's Old Town, Lottie's Lounge
	Matt Lincecum and Sara	
271	Nelson	Fremont Brewing
		Emmick Family Funeral Home & Cremation
272	Michael K. Emmick	Services
273	Michael Pivar	Pivar Financial Group
274	Joshua Montgomery	Montgomery Mobile LLC
275	Patricia Throop	Eldercare Consulting, LLC
276	Paul Prentice	Prentice Design LLC
277	Rebecca Rice	Arthur's
278	Rene A. Marceau	Marceau Pipe Organs, Inc.
279	Rita Dixson	The Bridge
280	Roger Nyhus	Nyhus Communication
281	S. Michael Hoffman, AIA	H+dIT Collaborative
282	Scott Harrell	9lb Hammer,
283	Shawn Pedro	2 MISSION CANTINA
284	Stu Hennessey	Alki Bicycle Co
	Timothy Narby and Carol	
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











