

31 March 2021

Dear Mayor Durkan,

The City of Seattle will receive approximately \$239 million from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA), half of it within the next 60 days and the second half one year later. All money is to be spent by 2024. The intent of ARPA is to recover from the pandemic emergency and its economic damage, but we face an even greater crisis due to climate change over the next decade.

Within ARPA guidelines, please consider spending some ARPA money as a green stimulus, to "Build Back Better." As we have seen with Covid-19, lower-income people are hit the hardest when we are challenged by health and economic disasters. Climate challenges, which we are already faced with, contribute to health disparities within our communities, especially along the I-5 corridor and around the ports. Below are some specific areas where American Rescue Plan Act funds can be spent to build back better and help us recover from Covid-19:

- Improve the energy efficiency of buildings — reduces fossil fuel emissions and reduces utility costs
- Transit investment -- supports efficient use of roadways, reduces air pollution and emissions from transportation
- Subsidize conversion to efficient electric space and water heating for buildings — reduces emissions from buildings
- Install EV charging infrastructure — supports conversion to electric vehicles for cleaner air and reduced emissions
- Expand affordable broadband access — supports reduced vehicle miles traveled and promotes equity for all households
- Establish apprenticeship programs to prepare workers for green jobs — provides good jobs for the future so people have strong skills to earn a living during both good and bad times

Our recovery and climate challenges require inspired leadership and aggressive action. We must use every opportunity to move toward a clean energy economy with green jobs and

climate health equity. Please exercise your leadership to use these ARPA funds wisely to promote a pandemic recovery and a green equitable stimulus.

Sincerely,

Robin Briggs

on behalf of People for Climate Action – Seattle