

August 3, 2022

Dear Mayor Harrell,

I'm writing as a member of People for Climate Action (PCA)-Seattle, a grassroots group working to encourage city officials to implement and update our climate action plan so that it's commensurate with the challenges of the climate crisis. We've encouraged prioritizing robust, actionable and measurable climate plans for many years and have monitored the city's progress towards our common goals of decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 58% (below 2005 levels) by 2030 and being zero carbon by 2050, in line with the Paris Accord agreements, and in order to do our part in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C from pre-industrial levels. The city has a lot of work to do to meet its goals and reallocating any funds from this effort will only make it that much harder to accomplish these goals.

Specifically, we are asking you to preserve the JumpStart funds for their original purpose and not use these funds to cover the city's budget shortfall. I am referencing and including below the excellent letter sent a few days ago by our climate colleagues from the Mayoral Climate Pledge team. We are in complete agreement with their request, reasoning and recommendations.

In addition, PCA-Seattle thinks it is time (and past time) for a Deputy Mayor on Climate to be appointed. We had been advocating for a City Council Select Committee on Climate and it seemed like that was going to happen, but it didn't. We understand that Council members, their staff, as well as you and your staff, are very busy and working hard addressing several critical issues— homelessness, economic difficulties, increasing crime, etc. However, the climate crisis is THE existential threat of this time, and to not treat it as such we feel is short sighted and irresponsible.

Thank you for your serious consideration of preserving JumpStart funds for their original purposes and appointing a Deputy Mayor on Climate. We look forward to a timely and thoughtful response.

Sincerely,

Iris Antman on behalf of PCA-Seattle

LETTER FROM MAYORAL CLIMATE PLEDGE TEAM

We are writing to you on behalf of the Mayoral Climate Pledge team to ask you **to preserve the JumpStart funds for their original purpose**. This money must not be absorbed into the General Fund.

Seattle specifically proposed and passed the new JumpStart payroll tax as additive funding for Green New Deal objectives, among other priorities; it was never intended to be a supplement to the city's General Fund.

The Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB) recently called on the City Council to “use the JumpStart Seattle revenue as intended in the JumpStart Fund ordinance, and **fully fund the priorities in the community-led spending plan, including 9% of revenue dedicated to local Green New Deal investments.**”¹

As a model for how Seattle could be spending some of its climate money, we invite you to look at the GNDOB's spending recommendations for 2022 and 2023². These describe a broad range of well-considered, achievable projects that will help Seattle transition to cleaner energy.

Following the IPCC guidelines, Seattle has committed to a 58% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 — this deadline is less than 8 years away. Given that this effort is already understaffed and underfunded compared to what is required, decreasing funding levels is unacceptable. To the extent that JumpStart revenues exceed prior estimates, we should maintain the share of revenues allocated for Environmental Justice & Climate actions. **The JumpStart funds are a critical part of addressing our climate crisis.**

We understand that the General Fund has a multi-year projected shortfall, but this can and should be handled by adding new sources of revenue or by implementing selective cuts, not by overturning the City Council's original JumpStart spending plan.

The JumpStart spending plan is a carefully balanced set of priorities for investing in our future by fixing some of Seattle's most fundamental problems. If we do not fully invest in equitable climate solutions as outlined in the GNDOB's recommendations we will be exacerbating economic and environmental disparities as the city moves forward. We urge you to stay the course and preserve our JumpStart funding!

Thank you very much,

Robin Briggs on behalf of the Seattle Mayoral Pledge Team

1. [2022 Green New Deal Recommendations for the Proposed Budget](#)
2. [GNDOB 2022 and 2023 Budget Recommendations](#)