

To: [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)

Re: Preserving JumpStart & Climate Funding

We are People for Climate Action, Seattle chapter, and we urge you to preserve climate funding in the 2023 & 2024 Seattle budgets and beyond. We believe this funding is essential to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. The latest climate projections are not positive, and it is clear that the City is not on track to achieving our carbon reduction goals. The City needs to take these concerns more seriously. The letter below, from our allies at the 43rd Environmental Caucus, summarizes our views and our requests to you, and is sent on behalf of our 185 Seattle resident members.

Sincerely,

On behalf of People for Climate Action, Seattle

We are writing to you on behalf of the 43rd Environmental Caucus and the Mayoral Climate Pledge Group. We urge you to protect the separation of the JumpStart Payroll Fund from the City's General Fund, and especially to **preserve the Green New Deal (GND) funding** that is mandated by the JumpStart spending plan. Further, we ask you to **carefully scrutinize the items that are being funded by the GND** to ensure that they meet the criteria required for the funding source.

The Mayor has requested a change of legislation in order to add flexibility to how the funds from the JumpStart program may be used. JumpStart was passed to address a critical shortage of affordable and emergency housing, to strengthen our small businesses, and for adaptation and planning for the climate emergency. Seattle's existing budget was insufficient and not making these investments for our future. JumpStart was never intended as General Fund revenue. We ask the Council to ensure that these changes are made:

- (1) **Limit the amount of any transfer of JumpStart revenue to the General Fund to \$84M in 2023 and \$71M in 2024**, which is the revenue that came in over projections.
- (2) **Limit transfers to 2023 and 2024** budget years, and do not enshrine them in perpetuity. This gives the City adequate time to identify and implement alternative revenue sources to stabilize the budget.
- (3) **Preserve the original purpose of the JumpStart fund** for affordable housing, climate, and small business support.

Further, items being funded under the Green New Deal require more review. **The GND funding is intended for additive projects that will reduce carbon emissions and improve equity beyond the city's existing plans.** For example, using GND funding for transit is wrong. When planning and study for transportation projects is included alongside other expenditures which directly touch and impact Seattle citizens it can give the impression that what we budget to help fight climate change is larger than it really is. The Sound Transit 3 and Downtown Mobility

Studies consist of 15% of what is being set aside as the Green New Deal. The expenses for transportation are larger than the Clean Heat Program. They are 10 times what is being spent on environmental justice. And 3 times what is being spent on workforce development. While we certainly support Sound Transit 3, new SDOT hires should clearly come under the SDOT budget, and not the GND budget.

Why do we think this is so important? We are at the end of one of the hottest summers on record, and a month-long period of severe smoke in Seattle. Climate change is here, and it is threatening every one of us. It will continue to worsen until we take steps to address it. The Seattle City Council passed the JumpStart tax in part to tackle climate change, and **the funds must be used as originally intended if we are to act effectively to mitigate the climate crisis.**

Thank you for considering these points,