



Dear Seattle City Council:

We are writing to thank you for putting the proposed Building Emissions Performance Standards forward. Buildings represent a large proportion of our greenhouse gas emissions, and this is a necessary step toward getting our commercial buildings to carbon neutral. **We support this effort.** We do have concerns with the legislation as it is currently drafted, and we are writing to ask you to make changes before it goes to environmental review.

1. The **timelines must be shortened** so that we get started on this path sooner and finish sooner.
2. The **penalties for non-compliance must be raised** so that they are sufficient to keep building owners from simply paying to pollute. Other cities, such as Boston, that are taking similar steps have much higher penalties.
3. **Renewable natural gas and clean hydrogen must not be classified as clean energy.** RNG is a potent greenhouse gas and when piped through the gas infrastructure a substantial portion of it leaks out into the atmosphere. Moreover, the State has made it clear that we will not have sufficient quantities of these fuels for heating buildings.

We are already living through the harmful effects of climate change, and we hear urgent messages from scientists saying that we must move faster. Now is the right time, because time is running out: Seattle is falling significantly short of meeting its commitments to reduce GHG emissions by 58% by 2030. Now is the right time because federal money is available. Enacting these new rules will create good union jobs, and substantially reduce our GHG emissions. People in Seattle want their City government taking action on climate change. **Please make these critical changes to the BEPS legislation before it goes to environmental review.**

Sincerely,

The 46th LD Democrats
August 15, 2023