



Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA
7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104
May 17, 2017

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council,

We are a diverse group of 209 small business owners who write to you today in opposition to the proposed beverage tax. We oppose the tax on behalf of our businesses, our customers and the affordability for living in the City of Seattle.

With rapidly increasing property taxes to pay for city services and an increase to the minimum wage, our neighborhood stores and restaurants are under extreme financial pressures due to your actions. Perhaps some of Seattle's larger and more rapidly growing businesses can absorb these costs, but we cannot. Seattle's small businesses are struggling to compete and to thrive.

Your tax stands to increase wholesale costs by more than 60 percent, which wipes out any money we might make and need to survive. Many of the products covered by this proposed tax are products that contribute considerably to the daily revenue we rely upon to help our employees live in the communities where they work, and allow for an equitable lifestyle for themselves and their families.

If we pass on this regressive tax to our customers, it will dramatically raise the cost of groceries for working families who are already spending a large portion of their paychecks on increased rents, property taxes and car tabs. Under this proposal, the \$.99 two liter bottle would increase to \$2.35. This is a huge hit to anyone's budget and ultimately makes Seattle even less affordable, especially for those located in minority communities.

Proponents might claim that reducing sales is the goal, but those judgments are blind to the needs of our businesses. Perhaps Seattle's more affluent customers can pay the higher costs, but ours cannot. More so, they will simply shop in Bellevue, Renton or Shoreline, and flight from our stores will further reduce our chances to survive. A beverage tax is regressive, and targets the most vulnerable populations, including local business owners, low-income families and communities of color.

Troubling data from a similar tax that was recently enacted in Philadelphia shows the consequences this tax incurs on businesses and working families. Lost jobs, closing local stores and consumers who simply "cross" county lines in an effort to find the "price point" they need to feed their families, are real concerns and real consequences. It was recently announced that Pepsi Co. will lay off 80 to 100 workers

at distributions plants that serve Philadelphia due to declining sales because of the enacted beverage tax.

The local economy may be growing, but counter pressures of increased costs are too much for small businesses to take. As the attention and visibility of larger businesses grows in City Hall, it appears with this new tax the concerns of small businesses shrink. In the end, we support the intention of this tax, access to unique education programs, but this shortsighted proposal is not the way to enact positive change in Seattle.

Do not add a new beverage tax to the growing cost of doing business and living in Seattle.

Signed,

Abdinsin Dur, Owner of Maka Mini-Mart
Abraham McKoy, Owner of King of the Hill
Alem Aman, Owner of Union Store
Alex Jin, Owner of Rainiant Chicken Hot Pot
Alex Piano, Owner of Hawk's Nest West
Alganasm Tesfashase, Owner of EZ Smoke & Market
Ali Muftah, Owner of Madd Walabbu Market
Allan Phillips, Owner of Carleton Avenue Grocery
Amber Bennett, Owner of Freshy's
Amit Sethi, Owner of 125th Street Grill
Amy Kim, Owner of Teriyaki Plus
Andrae Israel, Owner of Drae's Lake Route Eatery
Angel Bautista, Owner of El Chapulin Oaxaqueno
Antonia League, Owner of Perk Up Espresso
Barry Rogel, Owner of Deluxe Bar and Grill
Bhim Gollen, Owner of Super 24
Brian Wong, Owner of Sarducci's Subs
Byung Chan Lee, Owner of Gas Co
Cesar Lara, Owner of Tacos Las Delicias
Cesar Santangelo, Owner of Arosa Café
Chandala Khamnouane, Owner of Chandala Thai Restaurant
Channa Chiu, Owner of Airport Way Market
Charles Olsen, Owner of Blue Moon Burger
Charles Sim, Owner of Hefty's Hamburgers & Shakes
Cheala Wilson, Owner of Cowgirls Espresso
Cheryl Lorentz, Owner of The Daily Dose
Choon Hwa Ku, Owner of King Dome Deli
Chris Choi, Owner of Shell

Christy Moon, Owner of Wanna Teriyaki & Burger
Chun Cho, Owner of Sunny Teriyaki
Chun Li and Luyun Wu, Owners of JB Garden
Colleen Stevens, Owner of Bills Off Broadway
Cong Wang, Owner of Yummy Space
Conner Sweere, Owner of West Seattle Smoke Shop
Connie Longrie, Owner of The Siren Tavern
Cyrus Fiozi, Owner of Shell
Dabal, Owner of Dabal Market
David Fu, Owner of Snappy Dragon
Daniel Kim, Korean American Grocers Association of Washington
David Nelson, Owner of Hot Mama's Pizza
Delidel Belay, Owner of Ethiopian Market
Eakpoj Opilun, Owner of Pop Pop Thai Street Food
Eileen Choi, Owner of 76
Elena Sarmiento, Owner of El Quetzal
Enana Tesfaye, Owner of Hamdi Market
Ephrem Abtea, Owner of 7- Eleven
Eugene Suh, Owner of South Park Food Mart
Eui Kim, Owner of J's Quick Shop
Faizel Khan, Owner of Café Argento
Farah Ishmail, Owner of Bananas Grill
Gary Reynolds, Owner of Revolver Bar
Gemere Amare, Owner of Victory Mart
George Lee, Owner of Eastlake Market
German Arias, Owner of El Farol Mexican Restaurant
Gina Zhou, Owner of Cheeky Cafe
Gregory Ginchman, Owner of European Foods
Gurdev Singh Mann, Owner of 76

Han Jin Choi, Owner of Seven Star Mini-Mart
Hea Soon Chung, Owner of Haller Lake Market
Valero
Heidi Herr, Owner of Bird on a Wire
Heriberto Magdaleno Villalpando, Owner of
Cafetal Quilambo Cafe
Hilina Abura, Owner of Megenagna Ethiopian
Restaurant
Hinda Omar, Owner of Amin Grocery
Hong Paek, Owner of Toshi's Teriyaki
Hung Duong, Owner of Tan Dinh Deli
Husik Harutyunyan, Owner of Z Food Mart
Hyong Yun Kim, Owner of Pine Food Store
Hyung Lee, Owner of Vatsana's
Ibrahim Elmi, Owner of Harameyn Grocery
Jagajit Singh, Owner of A Pizza Mart
James Dillon, Owner of The Swinery
Javier Torres, Mi Ranchito
Jay Hosn, Owner of Goodies Mediterranean
Market
Jean Pierre Vidica, Owner of The Westy
Jenero Aguilar, Owner of Tienda Pueblito
Jennifer Calozzi, Owner of Italian Family Pizza
Jennifer Cue, Owner of Jones Soda
Jennifer Watkins, Owner of The Dutchboy
Coffee
Jessica Mcsteen, Owner of Wong's Kitchen
Jessie Singh, Owner of Stadium Market 76
Jewel Sam- Kpaka, Owner of SODO Pizza
Jlaxin Wang, Owner of Ooink
Joe Lim, Owner of Aurora Donuts
John Hong, Owner of Tobacco Street
Jong Seol Lee, Owner of City Smoke
Jongchul Kim, Owner of Summit Foods
Joo Hwan Lee, Owner of Moli Bento
Jorge Castellanos, Owner of Tropicos Breeze
Josh Olsen, Owner of Quarters
Juan Mantiel, Owner of Monti's Grill
Juang Wan Yang, Owner of Mont's Market
Julian Haggard, Owner of Harry's Fine Foods
Julie Mierzwiak, Owner of Realfine Coffee
Jun Hsu, Owner of Fu Man Dumpling House
Jung Jae Hur, Owner of Teriyaki & Wok
Kanchu Kanev, Owner of Romio's Pizza & Pasta
Karen Hofman, Owner of Madison Park Bakery
Karen Queley, Owner of Chevron

Kataya Evtimova, Owner of Luciano's Pizza &
Pasta
Kay Kang, Owner of Iraisha Sushi
Kendy Kho, Owner of Rain Café
Kenneth Lee, Owner of Lincoln Food Market
Khadija Moga, Owner of Moga Mini Mart
Kon Lee, Owner of Teriyaki Plus
Laurence Stusser, Plaza Select Foods
Laurie King, Owner of Paszlos on East Lake
Lex Petras, Owner of The Atlantic
Lina Awar, Owner of Grill Express
Linda Nasatka, Owner of Lee's Produce
Lixiun Zheng, Owner of Qian Noodle
Lora Ivanova, Owner of Soprano's Pizza Lake
City
Lynn Chang, Owner of Kau Kau Restaurant
Manjit Bheubfit, Owner of Good Guys Pizza
Mansour Ezadpanah, Owner of Pakistani Indian
Grocery
Mari Dimitrov, Owner of Amante Pizza & Pasta
Mariela Fletcher, Owner of Manila Manila
Mario Guillen, Owner of Tiko Riko
Mario Hernandez, Owner of Anita's Mexican
Food
Marisa Tonji, Owner of Ampersand
Marisol Mayara, Owner of Aborrotel
Oaxaqueno
Mark Amatangeco, Owner of The Grilled Cheese
Experience
Martin Garcia, Owner of Jalisco Restaurant
Mason Reed Nostrom, Owner of Tim's Tavern
Medhat Massaud, Owner of Shell
Mesfin Ghebrear, Owner of Lucky One Food
Store
Michael Abraha, Owner of Howell Street
Grocery
Michael Belay, Owner of 7-Eleven
Mijung Servito, Owner of Teriyaki Time
Mike Kee, Owner of HT Oaktree Market
Mike McCauley, Owner of Breakfast Club
Mohammad Barre, Owner of Shiil Grocery
Mohammad Omar, Owner of Mastro Coffee &
Grocery
Mohammed Ibkar Hussain, Owner of Smoke
Plus
Monatee S. , Owner of Tummy Yummy Thai
Money Aujla, Owner of A1 Market

Monica Landers, Owner of South Park Grind
Muzit Evans, Owner of Fish & Chips To-Go
My Viet Nguyen, Owner of Be's Restaurant
Natnaree Vamchwattana, Owner of Phayathai Cuisine
Navdeep Gill, Owner of 7-Eleven
Ngoc Loan Pham, Owner of Ad Mart
Nigiste Kidane, Owner of Kezira Cafe
Niokti Octo, Owner of Octo Sushi
Omar Napier, Owner of Namfon Thai Cuisine
Omar Santacruz, Owner of La Esperanza De Seattle
Paul Raney, Raney's Bar and Grill
Pete Thav, Owner of Family Donut
Peter Lee, Owner of Chicken Over Rice
Phuong Vo, Owner of Pearls Tea and Coffee
Prisciliana Vidro, Owner of Sabor A Mi
Purk Apichatpichien, Owner of Greenwood Thia Restaurant
Rani Josan, Owner of 76
Raza Awais, Owner of 76
Reiko Rangel, Owner of Aloha Ramen Japanese Noodle
Richard Chung, Owner of Seward Mart
Robert Bisordi, Owner of Natural Wave Beverages
Robert Enloe, Owner of Bob's Liquor
Robert Moore, Owner of Morning Star Mini-Mart
Robert Morris, Owner of Burgermaster Aurora
Robert Paulsen, Owner of Wedgewood Ale House & Café
Roberto Brombila, Owner of Taquiero El Antojo
Saad Ali, Owner of 99 Cents Plus Store
Sae Jin Lee, Owner of Sea Mart
Sang Choi, Owner of Bigfoot Carwash
Sanjay Sharma, Owner of Masala of India Cuisine
Sanjokta and Suren Shrestha, Owners of 206 Burger Co
Saras Nair, Owner of South Sea Grocery
Sarbjit Lehal, Owner of 76
Sean McAteer, Owner of Hillside Bar
Sean Yi, Owner of K-Smoke Mart
Selvin Oseguera, Owner of La Cabana Seattle

Seunghee Kim, Owner of Vape Smoke Beer – Town Market
Siu Ting, Owner of Lucky 5
Siwei Guo, Owner Style Hot Pot
Somjai Paksangkanay, Owner of Chada Thai Restaurant
Soo Young Hahn, Owner of Nasai Teriyaki
Soon Malsch, Owner of Dan's Deli Mart
Steve Timlin, Owner of Loretta's Northwestern
Stevie Allen, Owner of Emerald City Fish and Chips Co.
Stuart Richter, Owner of King Donuts
Sue Kim, Owner of By's Drive-In
Sunan Peebles, Owner of Amazing Thai Lao Cuisine
Sung Cho Lee, Owner of Parnell's Mini Mart
Sunny Singh, Owner of 7-Eleven
Sydney Lochlear, Owner of Alki Beach Pub
Takori Kurachi, Owner of UDon Cafe
Tara Burkett, Owner of Old 5th Avenue Tavern
Tess Thomas, Emma's BBQ
Testnicheel Binyam, Owner of Quick Pack
Thach Nguyen, Owner of Seattle Deli
Thana Tran-Huh, Owner of Yoshino Teriyaki
Thanh Le, Owner of Bamboo Restaurant
Thanh Thi Le, Owner of Pho Siagon
Thanh-Nga T. Nguyen, Owner of Chu Mingh Tofu & Vegan Deli
Theresa Sindelor, Owner of Rocket Fizz
Thomas Lee, Owner of Shell
Tracy Craighill, Owner of Reservoir Bar & Grill
Umed Laghars, Owner of Moti Mahal
Vanessa Jones, Tub's Gourmet Subs
Wael Zeidan, Owner of Zaki Mediterranean Grill
Wang Chau, Owner of The Sub Shop
William Chin, Owner of Patty's Eggnest
Willie Turner, Willie's Taste of Soul BBQ
Xavier Natallanni, Owner of Uncle Mike's Barbecue & Cuisine
Yohannas Zewaldi, Morning Side Grocery
Young H Kim, Owner of Pepperdock Burger
Young J Kim, Owner of TT Mart
Young No, Owner of MC Foods
Yue Rong Chen, Owner of Mandarin Gate
Zana Abdulaziz, Owner of Olive Tree