



UAW Local 4121

2633 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 200 • Seattle, WA 98102 • 206.633.6080

June 30, 2020

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers,

UAW Local 4121 strongly supports the legislation introduced by Council Members Sawant and Morales to Tax Amazon and other big businesses to fund social housing and Green New Deal programs. We urge you to pass this legislation to address our City's desperate need for affordable housing and to rewrite the tax code so that the burdens of addressing our public health and crises are borne by corporations who can most afford it.

Further, we are heartened to see the Council giving serious consideration to Council Member Mosqueda's Jumpstart Seattle legislation. In addition to taxing big businesses with high earners to fund affordable housing, the bill's establishment of \$17-million in direct financial assistance for immigrant and refugee households serves a critical need. Many of our members who are undocumented, or are non-citizen visa holders working or studying in the U.S., are ineligible for state or federal support during the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance could be a lifeline for individuals who lose employment and are facing circumstances in which they cannot receive unemployment benefits, health insurance, or other support available to U.S. citizens.

We urgently request that the Council amend Jumpstart legislation to remove the 10-year "sunset" clause and to instead move to create a permanent revenue structure that brings in \$300-million per year in keeping with the Sawant Morales bill.

Thank you for taking steps to pass this critical legislation that will prevent evictions, reduce displacement that disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, and support non-citizens who have been cut out from federal and state assistance. Please pass these critical measures immediately and continue to consider all other means to fix our state's regressive tax structure.

Sincerely,

UAW Local 4121 International Solidarity Work Group

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