

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

April 13, 2017

Dear Mayor Murray and Members of the Seattle City Council,

I write to express my deep opposition to your proposed soda tax. I am sympathetic to the challenges facing city budgets but believe the proposed Soda Tax is a profoundly unfair way to balance the city budget.

In Seattle alone, beverage production, supply, distribution, sales and retailing supports 5,000 Teamster jobs. These family-sustaining, middle class jobs depend on the beverage industry and are jeopardized by the proposed Soda Tax. Research statistics show that when soda prices rise 10 percent, sales drop 8 - 9 percent. Such a reduction in soda sales would result in significant middle-class job losses at the bottling plant all the way down to the delivery drivers and retailers.

Furthermore, working families in Seattle face exceptional economic challenges that would only be made worse by the Soda Tax. Washington families already pay the 10th highest sales tax in the nation and face a cost of living that ranks among the highest in the United States. The proposed soda tax seeks to balance the budget on the backs of Seattle families through a regressive tax that targets the middle class.

I implore you to consider ways to deal with the city's budget problems that do not jeopardize Seattle jobs and the families they support. Please don't move forward with the soda tax proposal – it's bad for Seattle, it's bad for jobs, and it's bad for working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa".

James P. Hoffa
General President