



Honorable Abel Pacheco
600 Fourth Ave 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Pacheco and Members of the Planning, Land Use & Zoning:

Subject: State Environmental Protection Act update to align with State Law and Regulations.
Sent via email: Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov;
Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov;
Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov;
Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov

Climate Solutions, Futurewise, Sightline, and Transportation Choices Coalition are writing to encourage the City of Seattle to adopt recent state law changes related to implementing the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) in their regulations and requirements that guide the development of infill housing.

SEPA performs an important task when reviewing zoning, development, or other actions that could possibly impact the built and natural environment. During the 2019 legislative session our organizations worked hard to make sure that any changes to SEPA regulations are narrow, for a specific outcome, and will not result in further environmental degradation. We believe the specificity of the exemptions contained within House Bill 1923 fit that criteria, and that adopting the exemptions outlined in the bill will provide greater housing diversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, and other environmental impacts created by sprawl and car-based land use policies.

Upon considering implementing the options within HB 1923, we request that the City of Seattle carefully consider the impacts that could be incurred in areas of the City with high risk of displacement. Climate Solutions, Futurewise, Sightline and Transportation Choices Coalition request that the City focus the changes in areas of the city with high access to opportunity and low risk of displacement. In accordance with HB 1923, SEPA modifications must be implemented by April of 2021.

Futurewise and (partners) support the City of Seattle in making needed changes to support housing diversity. Please let us know how we can best support these efforts.

Sincerely,

Leah Missik
Climate Solutions

Bryce Yadon
Futurewise

Dan Bertolet
Sightline

Hester Serebrin
Transportation Choices Coalition