

Monday April 28th, 2025

To: Mayor Wilson and to all City of Portland Councillors

FROM: APANO Communities United Fund, Verde, Portland Metro Chamber,

RE: Protecting the Integrity of the Portland Clean Energy Fund

We write today to reaffirm the original purpose and intent of the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) and to oppose recently discussed proposals to alter the PCEF tax. Passed by voters in 2018 through ballot measure, PCEF was designed to place a surcharge on large retailers, with the express purpose of funding clean energy projects and job training programs in communities most impacted by climate change and systemic inequality.

As allies, residents, and advocates of a fair and sustainable Portland, we envision a just world where historically marginalized communities have the power, resources, and voice to shape their own futures. The undersigned represent a group of organizations that share both Portland community and business' voices to ensure that everyone is heard and all perspectives are accounted for fairly. We represent both the founders and funders of the Portland Clean Energy Fund. Through this partnership, we come together to protect and defend the will of voters.

Climate Change and community resilience is a core priority for all of our organizations, and one we have and will consistently advocate for until we all have clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

While we deeply value many of the city's vital programs and core services, the revenue generated by the PCEF tax is legally and ethically bound to its original purpose, and cannot be altered in any way without a vote of the people. It was approved by voters for a specific goal: to fund clean energy and climate resilience initiatives, especially in frontline communities.

**Diverting these funds undermines the integrity of the democratic process and the community trust that made PCEF possible.**

Should the city wish to raise additional revenue, it must do so through a separate tax or funding mechanism that is referred to voters for approval. We want to be crystal clear - any changes to the structure or use of PCEF revenue must be brought back to the voters through a new ballot measure, just as it was originally established.

We recognize the city faces difficult budgetary decisions and we support creative, equitable strategies to meet those challenges. However, changing a voter-approved funding mechanism through council action—especially one intended to serve historically marginalized communities—is not an acceptable solution.

We urge you to uphold the promise made to Portland voters and protect the Portland Clean Energy Fund in both spirit and structure.

Sincerely,

APANO CUF, Verde, and Portland Metro Chamber

