

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**M. L. KING COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, SEATTLE METROPOLITAN CHAMBER
JOINTLY OPPOSE PROPOSED SWEETENED BEVERAGE TAX**
Business, labor leaders agree that tax will harm local economy

SEATTLE, Washington (May 30) – Leaders of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council and the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce today issued a joint statement urging the Seattle City Council to shelve plans to impose a tax on sweetened beverages that will wreak economic harm on small businesses and working families alike. The joint statement follows steps that both organizations took separately earlier this month to formally oppose the tax.

On May 11, the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce voted to oppose the proposed 1.75-cents per ounce sweetened beverage tax after carefully evaluating the measure and concluding that the City has not demonstrated how the new stream of revenue would be efficiently spent to drive effective outcomes. The tax would also create a declining revenue source—as consumption of sugary beverages is already on the decline in Seattle—creating an undependable funding mechanism for important programs.

“While the intention of improving education and health outcomes for the city is important to the Chamber and our members, this tax proposal does not provide a clear and effective solution for achieving those goals, and has a disproportionate impact on small businesses.” said Seattle Metro Chamber President and CEO Maud Daudon.

Meanwhile, on May 17, Teamsters Local 174 presented a Resolution before the Martin Luther King County Labor Council urging them to "Beware of the Beverage Tax: It is not what it seems." The Resolution, which demanded that any beverage tax proposal include measures to address the negative impact on working families, was passed by the Council in a unanimous vote of the delegates.

“In recent years, beverage taxes have become more and more attractive as potential revenue sources for cities and municipalities across the United States, including in the City of Seattle,” said Teamster Joint Council 28 President Rick Hicks. “However, these taxes have been shown time and time again to be destroyers of good jobs in the beverage industry and other related industries. Despite mounting evidence of this, beverage tax proponents have consistently failed to consider the adverse impacts these taxes have on the thousands of Union members who produce, warehouse, and deliver these products.”

ABOUT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

The Martin Luther King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, (MLKCLC) is the central body of labor organizations in King County, Washington. The MLKCLC is affiliated with the national AFL-CIO, the central labor organization in the United States, which represents more than 13 million working people. Over 125 organizations are affiliated with the MLKCLC, and more than 75,000 working men and women belong to Council-affiliated organizations. Not only does the MLKCLC support labor organizations, but it acts as a voice for the interests and needs of the working people in King County, WA. For more information, visit www.mlkclc.org.

ABOUT THE SEATTLE METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Seattle Metropolitan (Seattle Metro) Chamber of Commerce engages the innovation and entrepreneurship of its 2,200 members to advance economic prosperity, advocate for a vital business environment, and build sustainable and healthy communities in the Seattle region. Founded in 1882 by local business leaders, the Chamber today is an independent organization representing a regional workforce of approximately 700,000 people. For more information visit www.seattlechamber.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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