

Dear City of Seattle elected leaders,

We are writing because we are excited to support the Living Hotels ordinance that aims to make Seattle's hotel industry a national leader on climate through the Living Building Challenge and Climate Incentive Agreements.

The tourism industry is a significant global contributor to climate change, representing 8% of the world's carbon emissions. Hotels, part and parcel of the industry, are themselves among the most carbon intensive land use types according to data from the City of Seattle.

The climate crisis we now face, which disproportionately affects communities of color, demands action at every level of government for us to avoid the most severe ecological and humanitarian outcomes.

The Living Hotels ordinance would ensure the city's hotel industry is one that is built upon a more sustainable future of tourism, economic growth, and green and sustainable jobs in construction and operations. The standards in the ordinance are exactly what is needed to face the challenge before us. The standards consider on-site energy production, sustainable materials and sourcing in construction, water conservation, sustainable transportation, and equity for the local community.

In the last decade, the City of Seattle has set ambitious climate goals, targeting net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and aggressive carbon reductions by 2030. We are simply not on track to meet these goals. We must enact policies immediately to have a realistic chance to meet our targets, especially in the largest categories of transportation and buildings.

The Living Hotels ordinance is a critical policy piece for Seattle to ensure hotels do their fair share in meeting our climate goals.

We want people to visit Seattle, and we want to make sure that Seattle is a thriving place to visit for future generations as well. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,

