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Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:39 AM

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Subject: Cuts to climate action in Hamilton

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Dear Hamilton City Council members,

First, thanks for the work you do to build the best and strongest and most resilient Hamilton possible today and for the future. We know that it's not easy work to do and there are lots of competing pressures on your time and attention. And we know that the budget is a constant worry with many urgent demands coming from all sides.

A budget is often where we show our priorities and ability to build that stronger, better future. So it gives me great concern to learn that Councillors Pauls and Francis have proposed cuts to climate action in Hamilton. I'm sure that there are many urgent matters that need funding, and so we can think that initiatives to address climate concerns can be delayed until another day, another budget, another year. But this is how what's truly important gets cut by the urgent. If we can't breathe the air or drink the water or raise the food we need near Hamilton, pretty much everything else is a moot point. We may commit to the police budget, to garbage and recycling, to fire, to water supply and sewer, let alone roads, but if we can't live in the climate, none of these things will matter.

The climate budget is how city council can build a viable Hamilton future. Please don't cut it because the urgencies of the moment blind us to planning for a livable future.

Thanks for giving this proposed cut a very careful second thought,

Daniel Coleman