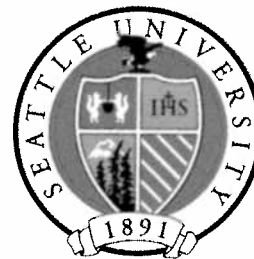


February 21, 2014



Dear Members of Sustainable Student Action (SSA):

The administration appreciates your leadership on our shared commitment to reversing global warming and promoting a sustainable future. The dialogue between the administration and SSA over the course of the past year has been informative and helpful.

Our Jesuit tradition places great value on open and respectful dialogue. The administration welcomed the opportunity to hear and learn from SSA in order to gain a deeper understanding of the issues involved in divestment from fossil fuel companies and its potential impact. The Board of Trustees' Investment Committee and the President's Cabinet discussed the issue at length following presentations made by SSA to both groups. We also reflected on the contributions Seattle University has been making and can continue to make to strengthen our efforts on sustainability.

Using endowment funds entrusted to us by donors for a purpose other than their original intent is an extraordinary step. As some participants in SSA's recent forum noted, divestment from fossil fuel companies will neither impact the finances nor change the behavior of affected companies. We believe there are more effective ways to address climate change. For these reasons, we are not prepared to move forward on a feasibility study of divestment from fossil fuel companies.

At the same time, we would very much like to continue our engagement with SSA. Together, we can explore new ways to broaden and deepen Seattle University's commitment to sustainability.

As you know, the university has made significant progress in implementing the Climate Action Plan under the leadership of the President's Committee for Sustainability. With the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability serving as our focal point, we are increasingly weaving a strong sustainability ethic throughout our academic programs while developing complementary co-curricular programs. Operationally, we have reduced our carbon emissions by 14 percent since 2009, surpassing the goal outlined in the Climate Action Plan for a 12 percent reduction by 2020.

As we continue to work toward the goals outlined in our Climate Action Plan, we are grateful for your insights and perspectives and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Connie Kanter', written in a cursive style.

Connie Kanter
Chief Financial Office/Vice President Finance and Business Affairs
Seattle University

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE & BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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