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Mayor Fontana and City Councilors,

I am writing to you today as a concerned London citizen to implore you to reconsider your crusade to reach the 0% tax increase this year, especially at the expense of some of London's most vulnerable citizens—people with disabilities and those living in poverty. I do not have much to say about the elimination of \$1 million from the affordable housing fund, aside from the fact that I in no way agree with this decision. I believe in the London Community Housing Strategy. This document is a powerful tool that aims to strategically address the issues of homeless in our community and should not be passed over for short-term gains. London needs long-term, sustainable solutions, something the new direction offered by Mayor Fontana does not, in my opinion, provide.

More concerning for me though, personally, is the elimination of the AODA retrofit fund. By eliminating this funding, you are condemning hundreds of Londoners with disabilities to a life of isolation, trapped in their own homes. It's bad enough that we are continually told that it's "too expensive" to become accessible, but by reducing this fund it will only be that much harder to build a fully accessible London, something that is mandated by law to occur by 2025. Without saving our money now and investing in future accessibility projects, we will *not* make it to this goal and could face serious financial consequences for non-compliance. Further, I would like to remind you that *all* research on the matter has shown tremendous economic benefits to accessibility. The disabled population is a huge market niche, woefully untapped, who collectively are an extremely lucrative consumer group *if* you can provide access to goods and services. Becoming accessible is just good business.

I appreciate and commend your efforts to reduce superfluous spending at City Hall and to reduce the tax burden shouldered by Londoners who are already struggling, but cutting these services and funding sources is just not worth the savings. On Tuesday, please think of the long term impacts of these decisions and, more than that, please think of all the people in London who stand to lose so, so much, just to save a few dollars per household. Please vote "No" to the 2012 Budget in its current form.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Preston
Ward 13 Resident