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At the end of the day, we won't be able to solve the housing crisis in Seattle without significantly increasing the supply of housing to accommodate our growing population. We can't legislate our way out of landlords having all of the leverage over people that need housing given the exceptional imbalance between supply and demand. We also need to make sure that our work to address this crisis is done in ways that also work to address rather than exacerbate existing inequities in our region.

The work proposed here clearly aligns to those needs. We are talking about a local black business owner who has literally jumped over every typical barrier faced by business owners of color, and who has a deep commitment to affordable housing and racial equity, who is proposing to invest in a toxic site and turn it into something that - in a small but meaningful way - puts another dent in our need for more (and more affordable) houses.

Yes, let's make sure the development is safe for all nearby residents - without question. But as a resident of the South Seattle area and a born-and-raised South End resident, I strongly support getting this proposal over the finish line.