Dear Deputy Mayor Moseley,

As the City undergoes a search for a new Seattle City Light (SCL) CEO, our members have reflected on their ongoing partnerships with the agency. We felt this would be a great opportunity to consider qualities that can improve those partnerships and promote the City’s goals more broadly.

A chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Seattle is comprised of over 2,300 architects and allied professionals working on the design of our city who care passionately about making better buildings and neighborhoods. Architects are strongly invested in the places they live and have the knowledge and tools to make a difference through design.

AIA Seattle and its members envision a SCL leader who offers:

**Leadership and the ability to work across silos**
SCL needs a CEO who can encourage and accomplish better coordination across city departments, especially with the Department of Construction and Inspections, to make sure SCL truly understands its impact to building project schedules.

**Willingness to engage in long term visioning**
SCL would strongly benefit from a leader who can establish long-term goals for the city and then push to make his or her vision a reality. Importantly, this includes talking with private and public sector partners to find ways to achieve mutual goals.

**A focus on carbon reduction**
Seattle City Light calls itself the “Nation’s Greenest Utility” – the new candidate’s mission and experience should be aligned with this branding and the utility’s stated goals for carbon neutrality. Thinking of energy demands systemically, and being open to discussion about right-pricing, will help SCL continue to be part of the carbon solution.

**Strong communication and outreach capabilities**
The new SCL CEO should provide top-down leadership for the agency’s partnerships with the private sector to ensure programs and incentives are communicated effectively, are fully utilized and are being adjusted as necessary. For example, although SCL has significant rebate and incentive
programs in place, owners and architects often don’t know about them or are not getting full value from them.

We look forward to working with the new CEO to improve SCL’s contribution to Seattle’s built environment and its ability to accommodate its partners in that effort. Thank you very much for considering these important factors during the hiring process.

Sincerely,

Lisa Richmond
Executive Director

Sidney Scarboro AIA
President

CC: Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, Chair, Housing, Health, Energy and Worker’s Rights Committee
    Councilmember Debora Juarez
    Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
    Councilmember Lisa Herbold
    Councilmember Mike O’Brien
    Jessica Finn Coven, Director, Office of Sustainability & Environment