



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 19, 2016

**STATEMENT FROM MINISTER RODNEY MUHAMMAD
ON THE PROPOSED CONTAINER TAX**

Minister Rodney Muhammad, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP and a member of Philadelphians for a Fair Future (PFF), today issued the following statement about the proposed container tax introduced by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown:

“Let’s stop trying to find ways to make it easy to let the big soda companies off the hook when it comes to paying for expanded pre-K for our children. We have a chance to enact programs that will give our children a chance at a quality education, and this proposed container tax doesn’t come close to being a real alternative to the Sugary Drinks Tax. It would generate \$30 million less than the soda tax, and that means our children would have to settle for less once again.

The container tax forces poor people to pay because it taxes all containers. That is truly a regressive tax that unfairly impacts poor people even when they make a choice to drink healthy beverages.

We have a chance to force the soda companies, who have been making billions of dollars in profits from poor people for decades, to pay for programs that at long last will fight the devastating effects of poverty in our community.

So I say to all members of City Council: Don’t let the big soda companies off the hook. Stop worrying about their concerns, and focus instead on the people in the communities we all serve.”

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May 19, 2016

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