

# Paperjam

P R E S S  
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April 13, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees  
From: Deborah Field, Co-Owner, Paperjam Press, Portland  
Re: Support of SB 610 & HB 2009

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

I am the co-owner of Paperjam Press in NE Portland, and a member of the Executive Team of The Main Street Alliance of Oregon. **I, and The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, support SB 610 & HB 2009, raising the Oregon minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2018.**

I have joined other small businesses who have decided that **paying our employees a minimum wage of at least \$15** is not only the right thing to do, but **is a very good business decision**. Investing in our employees, sending them a message that they are worth a fair wage, goes a long way. When employees feel they are important enough to be compensated for their work at a level that allows them to have a better quality of life, we are enhancing a sense of confidence and pride. This can lead to better performance and a stronger sense of happiness and loyalty which can be a factor for improving the bottom line.

When I talk to my fellow business owners, the **#1 thing that we can all agree on is the need for more customers**. We feel by being leaders and fighting for a higher minimum wage, we are supporting our local communities by bringing more money to those local economies. The statistics show that lower wage earners will spend more money in their local business districts, which is primarily made up of small businesses.

My experience of running a small business has shown me that my employees understand the importance of supporting other small businesses and shopping locally. So, by giving them more money to spend, they will be increasing the dollars flowing into the local businesses which adds more customers. In addition, by paying a higher minimum wage, we will become more competitive for attracting quality employees.

And last but not least, by paying our employees a wage of at least \$15 we become part of a combating a bigger issue—income equality. By paying a higher minimum wage, we are contributing to narrowing the income gap which supports a more democratic income distribution system in this country.

**Raising the minimum wage to \$15 is a Win-Win for all, please support SB 610 & HB 2009.**

Yours respectfully,  
Deborah Field  
Paperjam Press, Portland