



April 13, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees

From: Marci Pelletier, Owner, Shwop, Portland

Re: Support for SB 610 and HB 2009

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

I am the owner of Shwop in Portland, and a member of The Main Street Alliance of Oregon. **I, and The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, support SB 610 and HB 2009**, raising the Oregon minimum wage to \$15 by 2018.

Shwop is a membership-based clothing swap boutique. We recycle clothes, shoes and accessories. We just turned 3 this month. I have one part time employee, she earns \$10/hour right now.

If every business in Oregon were paying at least \$15 an hour, more people in my community could become members of Shwop, and then I'd be able to offer a higher minimum wage too. Being able to offer a higher wage means I could hire and retain talented people who can handle more responsibilities which would free me up to focus on growing my business.

Raising the minimum wage benefits the entire community. Parents not having to work two and three jobs to make ends meet means they can spend more time and be present for their children. People spending more locally, including at small businesses like mine, allows us to grow, expand and provide more jobs.

The bottom line is that raising the wage would mean that everyone would be able to pay for their basics needs – food, housing, medical, etc. A higher wage would, in turn, reduce any strain on public services which means we could focus the money and efforts on other important items not being addressed now.

Think big picture - if people are making more money, they spend more money which means they will spend more in our small businesses. Exactly what we all need - more customers. Help build a stronger Oregon, help small businesses create more economy-boosting jobs— Please support SB 610 & HB 2009.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter,  
Marci Pelletier  
Owner, Shwop, Portland