



I am writing you as a constituent to persuade you against the Senate Bill 610 and House Bill 2009 that propose a higher minimum wage. Oregon currently has the third highest minimum wage in the country and raising that wage could have several negative consequences. I urge you to consider these when considering these bills. A higher minimum wage creates an increase in consumer prices as a result of companies facing increased labor costs, thus defeating the purpose of raising the rates. If the minimum wage is raised to help families keep above the poverty level the rise of living costs is going to set that poverty level higher as well. Minimum wage is meant to be proportionate with the skills, education and productivity of people entering the work force. Ultimately a worker should acquire an entry level job, develop his or her skills and work their way out of that minimum wage and up the pay scale ladder.

PG Long has been providing jobs in the community for the last 25 years, we are a growing company with valued employees. Most of the employees in our company make more than the proposed minimum wage, therefore if the raise goes into effect PG Long will need to raise its current employees pay costing the company thousands every month. This is money that we will have to obtain by raising our prices which will ultimately lose us a lot of business. Raising our wage rates is highly unfair to workers currently employed. How is it fair for an individual to work hard at a college degree only to graduate obtain an entry level job only to make the same rate as a high school student working in retail?

I am all for equality, however raising the minimum wage rate does not offer this, instead it offers higher pay to less qualified workers. I believe that instead of raising the minimum wage we should focus our time, energy, and money to train up workers equipping them with the skill sets to succeed in the work force. This achieves something greater than a higher rate of pay it ensures that an employee has the skills to be the best at their job. An employee has to work hard for a raise in pay it is not simply handed out because they show up to work, this is a reward for hard work and perseverance. We should not raise the rate of pay for entry level jobs because of that fact, they are entry level jobs for those who do not have the skills or ability to move up.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tyler Long  
President  
PG Long Floorcovering LLC