



Chamber of Commerce

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April 10, 2015

House Business & Labor Committee

Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear House Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow,

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce represents 120 local businesses and we support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation.

We ask that you oppose efforts to increase Oregon's minimum wage further. Increases in the minimum wage would hurt local businesses, result in fewer businesses and jobs, and would not benefit our community.

Oregon's minimum wage is the second highest state minimum wage in the United States, behind only Washington (\$9.47/hour). Oregon's historically high minimum has not yielded economic gains for Oregon workers and in fact has increased the overall cost of living, without a true benefit to the employee or employer.

Some comments from local businesses within the Heppner Chamber membership:

- Will raise the cost of goods and services, because our employers/businesses can't do business and absorb the cost any longer.
- Will force employers to either reduce the hours of the employees or eliminate job positions altogether.
- We live in a rural area which is hard enough to do business, pay the employees and serve our customers.
- The employers feel this will not benefit anyone, from the employer, employee or consumer and is not in support of increasing the statewide minimum wage.

Sincerely,

Heppner Chamber of Commerce

Sheryll Bates

Executive Director