

Subject: House Bills 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2012

Dear Representative:

The subject bills are scheduled for hearings and testimony on April 13th and relate to increasing the minimum wage in Oregon. Oregon already has one of the highest minimum wages at \$9.25, while the Federal minimum is \$7.25. There are numerous small businesses in Oregon who will be faced with passing on their increases to consumers, laying off employees, reducing hours or closing their doors when faced with mandatory wage increases. With unemployment figures at 6.7% in Oregon, these bills will tend to decrease rather than increase employment opportunities.

In January of this year, a study by Economics International (ecointernational.com) on the effect of a minimum wage of \$12 indicates that Oregon could lose 52,500 jobs. The Congressional Budget Office reports negative impacts of increasing minimum wages throughout wide portions of the economy, with youth employment disproportionately damaged. Attracting new businesses to our state should be our goal, rather than discouraging them with onerous wage requirements and oppressive regulations.

I strongly urge your NO vote to each of the subject House Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

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