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Sen Michael Dembrow  
State Capital Building  
900 Court Street, NE.  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Sen. Dembrow:

As Mayor of Ontario and a concerned citizen of Oregon the idea that a raise in minimum wage by our legislature is going to help our low wage earners is not righteous and will in many cases destroy jobs in communities that right now are struggling to keep from going deeper into the spiral of poverty.

We across the state of Oregon are not created equal and each that has the responsibility of governing us needs to get out more and understand Malheur County, Ontario in particular, our location next to Idaho and the fact that we are already challenged by having a two dollar higher minimum wage then Idaho.

We are not able to attract jobs, corporations or any industry that hires low wage workers to start into the work force. Most of those companies choose Idaho over us because of our present disadvantage of a higher minimum wage right now.

Our onion sheds will automate or continue, at an accelerated rate, to move across the boarder to Idaho. Any raise in minimum wage will devastate us in our community.

Eastern Oregon (my community) does not have the luxury of any great industry, our demographics are different and the cost of living is different so we must be treated differently.

Think about the consequences of your actions and do not raise the minimum wage here and think about 'Cutting Malheur County' OUT of any increase of minimum wage.

Helping the few that it might benefit will destroy many that are now looking for jobs and also those families that are working in industries that will go to automation or move their operations to Idaho.

Please CUT US OUT of any increase in minimum wage increase. You will destroy our community and hurt the very people that you are trying to help... Don't do this.

Thank you,



Ronald Verini, Mayor

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