

Dear Senate Workforce Committee,

As a small employer in the Brewpub industry I have seen the failed effects of past 20 years minimum wage increase. Doubling down a failed policy at this time in our recovery is the worst possible thing for our Oregon Work Force. We have already seen massive investment by Oregon chain restaurants to divest of the entry level and service staff work force and replace it with technology. This is not just happening in Oregon's Restaurants but in nearly every industry which uses entry level employees. From agriculture to manufacturing, from the service industry to transportation, Oregon is leading the future in replacing our work force with technology. The states that are innovating and developing, exporting and creating are not having minimum wage discussions they are having tax reduction discussions, infrastructure development discussions and all the positive discussions that come from a thriving capital driven work force. In these states the work force is prospering and the poverty levels are shrinking, few work for minimum wage, and those that do don't do it for long because capital pressures drive the wages up not political partisan legislation.

Minimum wage increase will

- Further reduce actual spending power for working families with children (Thomas MaCurdy Feb 22, 2015 WSJ)
- Reduce total statewide wealth from shrinking export and industry development
- Reduce workforce incentive to grow and improve professionally
- Destroy more entry level jobs for untrained or high school first time job seekers
- Signal to employers that are waiting to "grow" or "layoff"
- Increase technology spending to replace unskilled labor
- Increase the number of part-time jobs with fewer benefits increasing Social Welfare expense.
- Cause Oregon to be less attractive to new business and industry
- Cause further destruction of the family as parents must each work multiple part time jobs.

I can assure the Senate Workforce Committee that my small business will have fewer employees earning less total wages in the coming years if this legislation moves forward. We will employ fewer entry level high school students, and we will use technology to replace many entry level jobs. The high school students that have gone on to become Doctors, Lawyers, Surgeons, Nuclear engineers, and so many other amazing careers will have less opportunity at Wild River, to work and gain valuable skills and work ethics. It makes me very sad to think that we will not be able to afford to give these rising stars the opportunity for a first job in a healthy drug free work environment.

The fact that this hearing is occurring with only a one day's notice with nearly no opportunity for public comment is shameful and ethically corrupt. Any new legislation that comes from a process as corrupt and morally bankrupt as this should be struck down in any court regardless of how liberal it may be. I want to be on the record objecting to the legality of the process and the timing of the partisan railroading of this legislation. This off year legislative session is intended to correct technical issues with legislation that had been previously passed in a full session. Never was it intended to create new legislation such as this.

Sincerely

Shaun Hoback  
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