



**Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste**  
*Northwest Treeplanters and Farmerworkers United*

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**To: Senate Committee on Workforce**  
**From: Ramon Ramirez, President, PCUN**  
**Re: Support SB 1532 increasing Oregon's minimum wage**  
**Date: February 2, 2016**

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members,

My name is Ramon Ramirez. I am speaking on behalf of the membership of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, or PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union. Founded in 1985 by 80 farmworkers, PCUN today includes over 6,5000 members.

I am here today to strongly support SB 1532 that would raise Oregon's minimum wage.

Everyone has the right to earn a decent living – especially farmworkers, who put food on our tables. This is especially true because farmworkers are America's lowest-paid workers. A farmworker in Oregon makes an average of \$9,000 a year if they work seasonally, or \$14,000 a year for full-time, year-round work. That's even lower than the \$20,000 a minimum wage earner makes in a year, and is not nearly enough to live on.

Agriculture is the second-largest economic driver in our state – valued at \$5.4 billion. Don't the workers that make that possible deserve to be paid a decent wage for the hard work they do? Farmworkers have been excluded from many major workers' rights laws. They deserve the same basic standards of pay and legal protections that all Oregon workers enjoy.

That's why when we raise the minimum wage, we can't leave anyone behind. Oregonians work hard every day so their employers can make growing profits — that hard work deserves to be rewarded with dignity and basic economic security for them and their families.

Let's give farmworkers the chance to afford the very food they help produce, and start to correct historic inequities that have kept farmworkers and their families living in poverty.

I urge you to pass a minimum wage increase this session.

Thank you for your time,



## **Are Oregon Farmers in competition with other states like Idaho and Washington because Oregon has a higher Minimum Wage?**

No, According to the Department of Labor, Idaho and Washington States are the largest users of the H2-A agricultural “guest worker” program in the Northwest, employing thousands of Guest Workers.

The Minimum wage (AEWR for 2016) for a guest worker in Idaho is \$11.75 an hour. In Washington State the Minimum Wage (AEWR for 2016) is 12.69. The Grower must provide OSHA approved Housing, Plus Transportation to and from the home country. In addition, must provide safety equipment. Factoring the overall cost, the Minimum Wage for a Farmworker under the H-2a program in Idaho ranges from \$15.00 to \$17.00 dollars an hours. If a grower uses the H-2a Guest worker program, the also have to pay the domestic farmworker the same AEWR wage if they work on the same farm. The AEWR wage in fact includes more than the guest worker.

## **Don't you think that Farmworkers deserve an increase in their minimum wage?**

Yes, Farmworkers are the lowest paid workers in America. Based on the most recent report published by the U.S. Department of Labor–farmworkers earn \$7.25 per hour on average, but this “average” varies greatly. For example, workers who have worked for the same employer for multiple years earn more than other workers. Those who have been with an employer for a year or less earn an average of \$6.76 per hour, and those who have been with the same employer for at least 6 years earn an average of \$8.05 per hour. Annually, the average income of crop workers is between \$10,000 to \$12,499 for individuals and \$15,000 to \$17,499 for a family. To give you an idea, the federal poverty line is \$10,830 for an individual or \$22,050 for a family of four.

Thus, according to NAWS, 30% of all farm workers had total family incomes below the poverty line. Yet Oregon Agriculture continues to improve economically topping 6 billion in total gate sales.

Agriculture (USDA). 20 CFR 655.120(c) requires that the Administrator of the Office of Foreign Labor Certification publish the USDA field and livestock worker (combined) wage data as AEWRs in a Federal Register notice.

Accordingly, the 2016 AEWRs to be paid for agricultural work performed by H-2A and U.S. workers on or after the effective date of this notice are set forth in the table below:

TABLE—2016 ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATES

State	2016 AEWRs
Alabama	\$10.59
Arizona	11.20
Arkansas	10.69
California	11.89
Colorado	11.27
Connecticut	11.74
Delaware	11.66
Florida	10.70
Georgia	10.59
Hawaii	12.64
Idaho	11.75
Illinois	12.07
Indiana	12.07
Iowa	12.17
Kansas	13.80
Kentucky	10.85
Louisiana	10.69
Maine	11.74
Maryland	11.66
Massachusetts	11.74
Michigan	12.02
Minnesota	12.02
Mississippi	10.69
Missouri	12.17
Montana	11.75
Nebraska	13.80
Nevada	11.27
New Hampshire	11.74
New Jersey	11.66
New Mexico	11.20
New York	11.74
North Carolina	10.72
North Dakota	13.80
Ohio	12.07
Oklahoma	11.15
Oregon	12.69
Pennsylvania	11.66
Rhode Island	11.74
South Carolina	10.59
South Dakota	13.80
Tennessee	10.85
Texas	11.15
Utah	11.27
Vermont	11.74
Virginia	10.72
Washington	12.69
West Virginia	10.85
Wisconsin	12.02
Wyoming	11.75

Pursuant to the H-2A regulations at 20 CFR 655.173, the Department will publish a separate Federal Register notice in early 2016 to announce (1) the allowable charges for 2016 that employers seeking H-2A workers may charge their workers for providing them

three meals a day; and (2) the maximum travel subsistence reimbursement which a worker with receipts may claim in 2016.

Portia Wu,

Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015-32114 Filed 12-21-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-FF-P

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**Request for Comments on Category Management Policy 16-1: Improving the Acquisition and Management of Common Information Technology: Software Licensing**

**AGENCY:** Office of Management and Budget.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Comment Period.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is seeking public comment on a draft memorandum titled, “Category Management Policy 16-1: Improving the Acquisition and Management of Common Information Technology: Software Licensing.”

**DATES:** The 30-day public comment period on the draft memorandum begins on the day it is published in the Federal Register and ends 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties should provide comments at the following link: <https://software.cio.gov>. The Office of Management and Budget is located at 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Paul Oliver, OMB, at 202-395-0372 or [OFCIO@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OFCIO@omb.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is proposing a new policy to improve the management and acquisition of commonly-purchased enterprise software. The policy advances the Category Management initiative established in the OMB Memorandum dated December 4, 2014, *Transforming the Marketplace: Simplifying Federal Procurement to Improve Performance, Drive Innovation, and Increase Savings*. The policy also addresses the implementation of the governmentwide software purchasing program in the Federal Information Technology Oversight and Reform Act (FITARA).

The draft memorandum establishes policies to reduce redundancy, increase accountability of agency officials, and promote best-in-class software

agreements across the Federal Government. Authority for this notice is granted under the Clinger-Cohen Act, 40 U.S.C. Subtitle III.

Tony Scott,

Administrator, Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer.

Anne Rung,

Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

[FR Doc. 2015-32059 Filed 12-18-15; 11:15 am]

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**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting; National Science Board**

The National Science Board's Science and Engineering Indicators Committee, pursuant to NSF regulations (45 CFR part 614), the National Science Foundation Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862n-5), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), hereby gives notice of the scheduling of a teleconference for the transaction of National Science Board business, as follows:

**DATE AND TIME:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. EST.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** (1) Chairman's opening remarks; (2) Approval of minutes of November 18, 2015; (3) Discussion of Higher Education Companion Brief; and (4) Committee Chair's Closing Remarks.

**STATUS:** Open.

**LOCATION:** This meeting will be held by teleconference at the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. A public listening line will be available. Members of the public must contact the Board Office send an email message to [nationalsciencebrd@nsf.gov](mailto:nationalsciencebrd@nsf.gov) at least 24 hours prior to the teleconference for the public listening number.

**UPDATES AND POINT OF CONTACT:** Please refer to the National Science Board Web site [www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb) for additional information. Meeting information and updates (time, place, subject matter or status of meeting) may be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/notices/>. Point of contact for this meeting is: Elise Lipkowitz ([elipkowitz@nsf.gov](mailto:elipkowitz@nsf.gov)), 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230.

Kyscha Slater-Williams,

Program Specialist to the National Science Board.

[FR Doc. 2015-32287 Filed 12-18-15; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P