

To the Members considering a minimum wage increase.

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When is the last time anyone out there got a 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% or 62% raise? Even over three years?  
This is a business breaker! No business can withstand this monumental change to its foundation.

Many of the “minimum wage” jobs are **tipped** jobs as waitresses/waiters \$9.25 + **tips**, but in Oregon **tips** aren't counted towards wages, **but** both Oregon and the Federal government **tax tips** and **employers** have to **pay Social Security and Medicare** on the **tips**, just like **wages**. At the very least, **tipped** jobs should be **exempt** from minimum wage increases to raise the **lowest** paid employees because they **don't**, in any sense of the word, earn “**minimum wage**”. On a **four** hour shift if they only make **\$20.00** in tips they have already “earned” \$14.25 an hour. Most of my wait staff “earn” far above \$15.00 an hour already.

Entry level minimum wage jobs were never intended to raise a family. They are “first” jobs, part-time while in school jobs, training jobs and “I need to get an education” jobs.

Oregon has been trying to attract businesses. If I was looking to expand it certainly wouldn't be in a state that has a **high** wage base. Higher minimum wages will lower tax revenue from **closures**, raise unemployment and decrease new businesses starts because they opened in some other “business friendly” state.

We already have a burden competing with businesses in states with lower wages. Please don't make it impossible to market our products. First you require any business with 10 or more employees to provide paid sick time now impossible wage increases?

We own a small restaurant business. Last year we cleared \$13,000. Every a \$1.00 increase will cost us \$27,000.

Do the math, we can't survive without reducing hours of service which translates into **lost jobs**.

Sharon Bannon