

Governor, Senators and State Representatives.

I farm in Nyssa, Oregon, and manage our onion packing warehouse. We currently employ about 20 people. Most these people work for me year round on the farm and in the warehouse. My grandpa moved here in 1927. We are very connect to this small community. Anytime an increase in wages above my competitors it forces me to get rid of my weakest employees. I'm then forced to be more automated in order to stay in business. A one dollar increase would cause a few of my employees to loose their job. A 3-5 dollar increase would force me to move my facility to Idaho which is only 3 miles away. I'm currently looking at growing more vegetable which would crate more jobs. Currently I'm going to have to abandon the idea or move that operation to Idaho. An increase in minimum wage will mostly hurt my employees because they will either loose there jobs or get paid 7.25 in Idaho. I can't move my farm to Idaho. My brothers, dad and I will be forced to buy bigger machines so we could do most of the work our selves. It would be great if we were adopted by Idaho then our poor county would be saved and out of your hair. I'm currently looking at buying a fast food restaurant in Nyssa Oregon. At our meeting with Representative Cliff Bentz, every large business talked about plans for relocating across the boarder. That means that our struggling town is dead. If the wage goes up we will not buy the restaurant and I'm sure it will be closed in two years. Last week I took a group of youth on a tour of our community college trying to inspire them to set a goal for college. One of them laughed and said why do I need to go to college. When I graduate in two years I will get a job at Walmart make \$15 an hour which will be the new minimum wage and make more then my mom who is a office manager in the neighboring town. From that point the tour was a waste. An increase in wages will hurt our schools, towns, community and most of all our future. We might be few in numbers but we love our community and way of life. I have a minor in economics from Utah State University. There I had an economics class where we played with the minimum wadge, interest rates, tax rates and mathematically watched how it would effect a state or country. It was frightening how fast things changed when we made a change in the wage 3-4 dollars and it wasn't for the good. Malheur County is too great to be a ghost county. Leave us out of the wage increase. We love our family oriented community. Don't change it just because Portland and the unions want a change. We are 300 miles away, what works for the west side of the state won't always work for us. I just hope a few people have an open mind about this topic.

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