

I am writing to testify in opposition to the proposed minimum wage hike here in Oregon. I understand that the point is to better support low-skilled workers, but in the end, it will result in additional unemployment just as the state is beginning to get back on its feet without significantly improving the lives of low-skilled workers.

This shouldn't surprise anyone, it's just math and math isn't always "nice."

Now is the time to support business in Oregon so that it can expand and grow and YES, hire MORE people, not fewer.

Now is the time to invite NEW businesses to Oregon – and you do that by being business friendly, allowing businesses to launch here without obscene cost.

As it is, with Oregon climbing to the top of the wage ladder nationally again, employers will go elsewhere – as they often do.

Minimum wage was never intended to be a career wage, nor a long-term wage. No one should expect that a sandwich-maker would be able to raise a family by slapping cheese between two pieces of bread. That's why we have training and school, the ability to learn higher skills and then command a wage commensurate with those higher skills.

It does not make sense to pay low-skills an artificially high wage and further encourage people to hang out in dead-end jobs for a lifetime, just scraping by every year.

Let's think BIGGER.

Let's keep all costs and taxes low and entice manufacturing back to Oregon! Let's bring industry back and those industrial companies will bring good jobs with them. Remember those? Good jobs?

Remember when we traded those jobs for cosmetically prettier "green" jobs in tourism (you know, all those minimum wage jobs)

On the preparation side, let's get skills training back into high schools – let's train kids in a trade, arrange apprenticeships in plumbing and electrical.

You can only support so many sociology/social media majors and we already have enough of them!!!

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