

CONCERNS FROM RURAL OREGON

February 5, 2016

THE CREATION OF \$ 15.00 per hour

Before you decide on the minimum wage issue, PLEASE, PLEASE, consider the following perspective.

Raising the minimum wage is not rocket science. A sound understanding of how money is made to produce a wage is where the attention should be before you pull the trigger. A \$15.00 minimum wage is not an unreasonable thought, provided common truth is adhered to, and a productive economic base is in place to encourage and maintain it over the course of the increases. It also needs to be competitive with our border states.

But before we even get there...

Let me ask some reasonable questions. Where does money come from? How does one acquire it? Can you just stand outside your house and yell for it? "I WANT MONEY" and bingo it's there? What about a phone booth transformation? How about a conversation with a tree asking it to grow money? Can you think it into existence? Where does money start? Luck works sometimes but where did that money come from? Sometimes it is from an inheritance, but how was it made? 'I want \$15.00 per hour now' and it automatically appears?

Money starts with the awareness and insight to resolve ongoing human need for the consumer, including ideas to leverage our surroundings in an effort to make life easier. That "Awareness" is called "How do I fill a particular need". All things successful are built on the ability to duplicate and leverage that need. That is **Value**, and the medium called money is used for its exchange and Walla... money is made.

What did Apple, Microsoft or Ford do? How about Starbucks, Boeing, etc.? Do they pay good hourly wage and benefits? My point exactly!! Yes they do. Why? Because they produce a product to fulfill that need by creating value both locally, nationally and globally to produce and sustain that \$15.00 per hour.

Moneys are being exchanged for value both locally and **outside their area**. The key is outside the area, **The Portland area**. New money is coming in from all points around the country, and globe 7 days a week 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Here in Malheur County as well as other rural counties in Oregon there is very little value being created outside of agriculture and the state prison. Unfortunately a good majority of the state workers live in Idaho. In your neck of the woods you have a great deal of diversity from manufacturing, ports of call to Ag. Your area also has the infrastructure to add to that value. That

diversity and the ability to bring in new money (VALUE) is your \$15.00 per hour. Your value for the most part is in place.

Do you honestly believe that we in rural Oregon can even match the industrial might of the western side of the state? It's impossible, but yet you expect us to have that value already in place. When will the politics in Oregon recognize that to grow our local economy we need manufacturing and industry to create that BUZZ WORD "VALUE" TO CREATE \$15.00 PER HOUR.

The governor, Senators & Representatives and unions who are in favor of this in-proportionate wage hike are putting the cart before the horse due to the lack of sustainable value. Value has to be built and the infrastructure provided to endorse and sustain this new economy of \$15.00/hr.

Malheur County has no money!! It's like we are all crammed inside the proverbial phone booth, chasing the same old dollar. We are constrained by Salem to produce, and until you figure out how to add value to our area it's impossible for you to think that we can live like you want us to. We have lots of fields and opportunities that we can be outstanding in if given the opportunity. Without the type of growth needed it is not sustainable and you need to CARVE US OUT!!!!.

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