

February 5, 2016

Governor Brown, Senators and Representatives,

This is my written testimony for Bill #1532

I urge all of you to continue to carefully reconsider the action you are about to take.

First, I am so completely stunned that at the urging of Senator Rosenbaum another hearing is taking place regarding the \$15.00 minimum wage. That the timing of this hearing, which is taking oral testimony again, was called for because those of us opposing the wage hike took too much time at the hearing in January. That hearing is everyone's constitutional right. The time we used was shared equally between both sides. Holding another hearing in which those opposed to this hike are unable to attend due to the distance and the lack of a timely notice is absolutely beyond belief.

This should not be a Democrat or Republican issue. Frankly, I don't care if you are a Republican or Democrat. What I care about is your own moral integrity, honesty and willingness to represent those fairly, even those that you might disagree with. It should be about having all the facts. Understanding that the issues in Portland are not the same issues here. My moral compass tells me that both sides of this issue, like any other dividing issue, needs to be heard whether you like or agree with what they have to say. By holding this shotgun hearing you have essentially surrounded yourselves with a one sided perspective. If that was your intent you achieved it. A one sided testimony is never healthy or balanced to either side, EVER.

As a small business owner, we have invested our lives into our community. We also have a daughter and son-in-law and a son and daughter-in-law who also own their own businesses. As a family we stand to lose all that we have worked for. With NO NEW MONEY created by new industry, which creates new jobs and new money, this town and many like ours will die. Most small businesses in our area do not gross even \$500,000/yr. At \$11.50/hr that business will be in the hole \$2400.00 and will have lost a net-profit of approximately \$35,000 (7%) from a minimum wage of \$9.25/hr. from the previous year. This does not even take into consideration what the Sick/Time off requirement is doing to small business where the increase to payroll is approximately \$400.00 per employee at the base rate of \$9.25/hr.

The actions being taken by many of you are exemplifying a complete and total lack of disregard for your fellow Oregonians. Why is it okay that we are put in a position to loose all that we have worked for? What would your answer be if all of you lost your State PERS because we felt it was our right for you to compensate us? Who are considered the have and the have not's? We are ready are the have not's, Why is it okay to eventually make us the DO NOT EXISTS? Without new industry, new money and new housing it will happen to Ontario and many other rural cities.

After the testimonies given in January, it became extremely apparent that there are real and urgent issues in the Portland/Metro area that need to be addressed. It was unclear what these issues stem from. Is it greed, lack of education and/or lack of proper planning for housing? By the sounds of it there are many that are being displaced from their homes. Will the \$15.00/hr cure that? Will it help them stay in their homes? I felt for many of the people wanting these raises but my question is, will this increase address the real problem? How high will you allow the minimum wage to go? How much is enough? Only you know the answer to these issues. Please take care of the Portland/Metro area first before you put the social and financial crisis on us and all the ramifications that go along with it. Decimating entire communities is NOT the answer in trying to cure the Urban problems. Our backs are bowed enough with the slim margins that we work with.

I was raised with a work ethic. It is because of that ingrained work ethic that I do what is right and work hard. It is not my neighbors responsibility that they give me some of their hard earned money nor is it the States right to take it away from a community that has worked hard to provide jobs for their neighbors. That we would have to close our doors as a community is definitely not the answer, guaranteed!!

Coming up with a tiered approach to the Minimum Wage is admirable but not feasible. All it will do is kick the proverbial can down the road. We have the knowledge and experience to understand our own economic issues. Let us decide as owners, as a city and as a county what is best for us. CARVE US OUT!!!!

I would greatly appreciate and expect a response from all of you on my written Testimony.

Also have any of you taken the time to read and research the following articles? I have not hear back from any of you. I would appreciate and expect your response to these also.

<http://accountingnw.com/2016/01/12/how-will-the-increased-minimum-wage-rate-impact-your-business/>

<http://accountingnw.com/2016/01/12/managing-a-minimum-wage-rate-increase-increasing-prices-sales-volume-cutting-costs/>

<http://accountingnw.com/2016/01/12/increasing-the-minimum-wage-rate-solution-or-problem/>

<http://accountingnw.com/2016/01/12/free-excel-spreadsheet-analyze-the-impact-of-a-minimum-wage-rate-increase/>

Respectfully,

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