

Dear Committee members;

Although raising the minimum wage sounds good as far as helping employees to earn more to help them support themselves and their families, this is a mistake!

In Washington State, many businesses have been forced to go out of business because of the wage increase.

Every time a wage increases, prices for goods increase! When prices increase, it hurts our families, seniors, and poor.

How can we expect a business owner to afford paying their employees more? The only way for them to do this is to lay off other employees or cut back on the hours worked. This is not the answer! What we need is to make Oregon a

healthy state for businesses to thrive so that more higher paying jobs will come here, and STAY here. To do this, we must stop punishing local businesses, by forcing them to pay higher wages, and higher taxes.

Texas has a vibrant economy! We must look at what makes Texas a thriving state. Is it higher wages? NO! It is the low corporate and small business taxes. Utah is another state that is very friendly to small businesses.

If Oregon continues down this path, we will look like California, which has the highest taxes, and lowest job opportunities in the West. Also, it has the highest welfare and unemployment.

Higher wages kills local business. Consequently, what happens is more unemployment, and in some areas, such as where I live in Klamath Falls, a ghost town.

Just a few years ago, Klamath Falls was growing, now due to all the high unemployment, high corporate taxes, and a failed economy, businesses have gone out of business!

I have seen pictures of some McDonalds restaurants across the country which now have automated employees who have replaced the former jobs due to the wage increase. Is this the answer, automation where we once had people?

Oregon already suffers high unemployment, under wage increases it will only get worse!

We cannot stay on this path, without suffering this same fate as Washington, and California. Please consider a NO vote, and let's get to work to FIX the problem with jobs, and bringing them to Oregon to stay.

Thank you,
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