

I am writing in support of a minimum wage increase to \$15 for all Oregonians by 2019. As such, I cannot support HR 1532.

If you support a minimum wage increase from the current \$9.25, there are several competing alternatives.

As presented in the recent Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP) analysis (<https://shar.es/14ezWE>), HR 1532, if enacted, would delay full implementation for 6.5 years and is far more modest than the increase enacted in 1989, which implemented a 42 percent increase in only 18 months.

As the study states, "That increase did not slow down Oregon's economy. In fact, following the 1989 increase, Oregon witnessed a long expansionary period in the number of small businesses and jobs."

\$15 is rapidly becoming the national standard. While there is nothing economically magical about this figure, it provides a living wage and decreases the number of people requiring government assistance. Seattle and San Francisco have already passed the increase to \$15 for all workers in the city and five other cities are phasing in increases for city employees. The increase to \$15 is expected to be on the ballot this year in five states, including Oregon, and nine cities.

Rather than carve up Oregon's economic landscape by offering different wages depending upon your workplace location, we should rescind the statewide preemption law forbidding cities from adjusting their wages for their local cost of living.

In December 2015, The New York Times editorial board [stated](#), "...\$15 an hour has gone from a slogan to a benchmark." and "...the new minimum should be \$15."

Oregon should be leading the way on this issue, being bold as OCPP suggests, and not entering the fight for fair, living wages with a compromise.

Regardless of the outcome for HR 1532, I will continue to support the ballot initiative asking voters to increase our minimum wage to \$15 in 2019.

Thank you and sincerely,

Bart Bolger
Corvallis, Oregon