



February 12, 2016

It is on behalf of the Polk County Fair that I write this letter to you. The Polk County Fair cannot survive SB1532-A. The raise in minimum wage for our little County Fair may force us to close our doors. The impact for just the seven days we have extra staff of the grounds would be an additional \$7,500.00. This is money that we don't have, we barely cover our costs as it is. The impact of this bill will be a loss of jobs during the Annual Fair.

The Year Round operations of the Fairgrounds will also be impacted, it will cost us an additional \$39,362.40 a year, again money we don't have. This leaves us with two options: increase our rental rates in order to operate and keep the facility maintained, which is difficult for the users in our area and will cause us to lose several of our events or lay off at least three employees, which will end up in us closing our doors.

These increases are only the tip of the iceberg, all of our cost will now be increased since all of the businesses that provide products we use will also be impacted by this increase, everyone from our entertainers to the people who put up fences and tents will be impacted. It will mean a loss of jobs for many of these businesses that we will no longer be able to afford to use.

County Fairs are an important part of each community, we support both the 4-H and FFA programs for the Youth in our Community, we are also the event center that most of our public schools use for their fundraisers, these along with Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Independent Living Program and Partnerships in Community Living depend on the use of our facility.

Please reconsider SB1532-A the impact it will have will not be a positive one, everything we buy today will have an increase in price to make up for the increase in minimum wage and nothing will be solved. Jobs will be lost in many areas of our community.

Minimum wage was never meant to be a living wage, it was set up to be an entry level wage for people just entering the workforce to get quality experience. The Polk County Fair for many years has been the entry level jobs for youth in our community to get work experience, we now won't be able to afford to have employees with no experience since we will be operating with only a few people because we can't afford any more.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tina R. Andersen

Tina Andersen, Manger

Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center