

Dear State Representatives,

This increase will NOT BENEFIT Oregon and most definitely will HURT OUR SMALL BUSINESSES!!! Below is an excerpt from one of our local 3 Generation Successful Small Businesses in The Dalles....

"I am a small business owner. We have been in business since 1940. I drive a 17 year old truck. I don't fly in a private jet or retreat to my vacation home every weekend. We operate on tight margins and our risk isn't spread across 1,000's of locations. I employ 38 people, many of which have been with us over 10 years, some over 20. Some make more than the proposed wage, some do not based on talent, training and expertise required. This proposal would cripple our ability to grow, compete and employ our amazing team as we currently do at best."

Here is another comment from a Small to Medium Size Company...

"We are 58 employees. No one makes minimum wage but the person that just worked their way to \$15 is now the same as a starting wage. So for them to have the same increase, the current \$15 now needs to be \$22. This will result in increased cost of products and a layoff of 20%. So how this could ever help the middle class is ridiculous. We already have one of the highest minimum wages in the US. Lastly, how many businesses will now decide that they don't need to be in Oregon."

This raise will HURT OREGON's ECONOMY. It will KILL our SMALL BUSINESSES in The Dalles. We are just starting to revitalize our community and this is going to send us backwards and I am not sure if we will recover from this.

Minimum wage was not meant to be a sustainable living wage. It is an entry and training wage. If you do this than many of our employers will be faced with the choices of choosing an older person with more experience over our youth. This process is going to make it difficult for our youth to be working and earning money for continued education.

This will also affect our seniors and others who live on fixed incomes as they will face higher prices at the grocery store and be forced to pay more for other services we need.

This increase is going to start a downhill spiral for our State, Youth, and Economy... VOTE NO!!!!

Thank you for listening to your constituents from The Dalles Area Chamber who represents 509 businesses with over 6500 employees.

Lisa Farquharson

Lisa Farquharson

President / CEO

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

Local: 541.296.2231 | Cell: 541-240-1050

thedalleschamber.com | visithedalles.com