

Dear Honorable Chairman Holvey, Committee Members and Staff,

On behalf of the almost 300 member businesses who provide over 4,200 jobs in Tigard, I am asking for your NO Vote on SB 1532. Please consider the following facts that support a NO vote.

- **A massive mandated wage hike will kill jobs.** Research estimates 62,700 lost Oregon jobs. Hospitality and agriculture small businesses will be especially hard hit. Teen unemployment will go up. ¹
- **Cash-strapped schools will have even less to spend on educating our kids.** For example, the Hillsboro School District estimates the mandated wage hike will cost \$4.4 million – which equals 51 teachers added in 2015. ²
- **Local governments will have to cut services or raise property taxes.** Linn County estimates the mandated hike will cost \$2.25 million a year – requiring cuts in law enforcement, social services or higher property taxes. ³

While advocates for higher wages blame large corporations for income disparities, small businesses and customers will be most affected

- **Oregon businesses with 5 to 49 employees have the highest concentration of employees earning between \$9.26 and \$13.49/hour and they have the least flexibility to adjust to a dramatic increase in labor costs without layoffs or raising prices.** ⁴ A large percentage of the Tigard Chamber businesses are small business.
- **Fixed-income seniors, working families and college students will get stung.** The massive wage hike will raise the cost of everyday essentials like food and child-care. Some families will lose food stamp and child care assistance and college work-study students could lose financial aid.

Raising minimum wage does not solve the problem of family wage jobs as all other costs over time will increase due to the pressure of an increased minimum wage. Raising the minimum wage will act as a disincentive for employers to relocate or expand here.

Please vote No on SB 1532 and let's focus instead on enabling business to create family wage jobs through legislation that helps stimulate our economy and supports both small and large employers in job creation.

Regards,

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Building Business. Growing Together.

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