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February 10, 2014

Chair Lee Beyer  
Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

Re: **SB 1547 – Partial Reimbursement of Minimum Wage  
Paid to Youth Employees**

Dear Chair Beyer and Committee Members:

The Northwest Workers' Justice Project provides legal representation to low wage contingent workers throughout the economy in sectors such as construction, building maintenance, landscaping, hotel and restaurant industry, food processing, agriculture and reforestation. The Northwest Workers' Justice Project opposes SB 1547.

Introducing youth to work in small business is a laudable goal. But SB 1547, if passed, would unfortunately undermine the minimum wage and the wages of all low wage workers.

The Oregon minimum wage of \$9.10 per hour is not a burden to employers, particularly for real jobs as the bill requires. Employers should fairly pay all workers for their labor. Indeed, fair pay for labor is something that the public and all employees, including youth, should support and expect.

Allowing employers to pay less than minimum wage effectively lowers the minimum wage. It hurts all other workers because their opportunities for a job are diminished. It hurts other employers who will not have the benefit of the subsidized wage.

The Northwest Workers' Justice Project requests that you oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

Genice Rabe  
Legislative Counsel