

April 13, 2015

To: House Business and Labor Committee / Senate Workforce Committee:

Please stand with us as business owners from Baker County to stop any further increase to Oregon's minimum wage. This action would drastically hurt small businesses the most, by raising our costs across the board on all employee's and adding higher costs to everything we must use or purchase. This will greatly weaken our very fragile economy that we have, here in Baker County, for a long time.

The higher the price on a service or product, the fewer customers you have who can afford that service or product. Many small businesses will fail and we will have many more employee's who will be without their jobs, not because we as business owners want to keep more money for ourselves but because we don't have any more to give. This is not a game to us, most owners work 60 to 70 hours every week just to keep the doors open, this is our lives and the life of our businesses.

I now speak, not only for my own businesses that my wife and I own but, every small business owner in Baker County because I am now the County Commission Chairman. In our county the majority of the businesses are small and they depend on keeping their costs as low as possible, adding any more expense to the cost of overhead means they will have to lay someone off or close the doors all together.

So I ask one more time to please oppose any increase to Oregon's minimum wage.

Thank you,

Bill Harvey

Baker County Chairman