



April 9, 2015

House Business and Labor Committee
Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to Increase Statewide Minimum Wage

Dear House Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow,

The Albany Area Chamber represents approximately 600 members representing over 19,000 employees. Established in 1904, the AACC is committed to creating a strong local economy that encourages business and job growth in the Albany area. Over 90% of Albany area businesses are small businesses, businesses that need your support to succeed.

This legislative session has seen a variety of House and Senate Bills that would mandate Oregon businesses pay a higher minimum wage with little to no regard on how this will affect thousands of businesses and their employees across Oregon. I have many members that have described what they would have to do to survive with additional mandated wage increases including layoffs, hiring fewer employees, changes in benefits, shorter hours, etc. In addition I have had several local business owners tell me they will have to close should the increases in minimum wage pass.

These businesses care about their employees and do their best to provide meaningful wages for meaningful jobs but they aren't resistant to the ever increasing burdens placed on businesses. Minimum wage increases, mandated paid sick leave, mandated state retirement plans, and more are putting Oregonians at risk of losing their jobs.

I know you want to help Oregonians succeed therefore I ask that you oppose efforts to increase the minimum wage any more than the automatic indexing we already have in place. Let's keep Oregonians working, businesses thriving and truly rebuild our economy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Steele".

Janet Steele
President