



April 13, 2015

House Business & Labor Committee  
Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear House Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow,

The East Portland Chamber of Commerce met just this week to review many of the bills that are currently being considered by the legislature. The minimum wage bill was discussed and in the past we have taken a straw vote of our members and more than a majority of them were against the proposal to increase minimum wages as they are being proposed. We support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation.

We share this information with you and ask you to seriously consider their input as you address the efforts to increase Oregon's minimum wage further. Increases in the minimum wage would hurt local businesses, result in fewer businesses and jobs, and would not benefit our community. We would like to point out some of the following facts:

Oregon's minimum wage is the second highest state minimum wage in the US, behind only Washington (\$9.47/hour).

You are already considering a paid sick leave mandate that will cost small business \$976 million per biennium.

One of our business owners stated, if that if the minimum wage rate is raised to \$15 per hour, that would mean that they would have to lay off two people. They knew that their already lean staff would not be able to somehow absorb the work of the two lost people, so how would they be able to pay their people more money.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Moss, President  
East Portland Chamber of Commerce