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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,

**Minimum Wage Opposition - Hermiston, Oregon**

The Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is concerned about the impact this would have on our small local businesses. We have heard the voices of our Hermiston Chamber members and would like to share their concerns with you in the following statements.

- I am a small business owner; I work a minimum of 65 hours a week and can only afford to hire 2 part time employees, if Oregon passes a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour I will be forced to let those employees go. I do not understand how you think this will help business prosper.
- The impact would be negative and detrimental to our business, we currently have 25 employees. We would be cutting hours for everyone, most would have to be cut to part time, we may be forced to close our doors, I suspect this will be a common theme across the state.
- We absolutely oppose the increase of the minimum wage Oregon State Legislature is trying to pass through to small businesses. Why? Because small businesses will have to close their doors and will not be able to sustain their current employees who really want to work. Have you thought about all the people that will become unemployed and how much that will cost tax payers in our state?

We need your support and help to keep Oregon's business economy friendly and encourage entrepreneurship throughout the state. The future of Oregon's success depends on supporting our small businesses. Talk with your constituents who are small business owners and find out how raising the minimum wage will impact their business. The Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce believes raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour is a BAD business decision and it will hurt rural Oregonians the most.

Sincerely,

Joe Franell  
Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board