

## Board of Directors

### **Dan Keppen**

Dan Keppen & Associates, Inc

### **Kathie Philp**

Pacific Crest FCU

### **Willie Riggs**

OSU Extension Office

### **Rachael Spoon**

KBHBA

### **Randy Shaw**

Coldwell Banker/Holman Premier Realty

### **Ellsworth Lang**

Kla-Mo-Ya Casino

### **Mike Angeli**

The Ledge

### **Jason Chapman**

Chapman Ranch

### **Jennifer McKoen**

County Cork Collectables

### **George Ormsbee**

Cal-Ore Communications

### **Werner Reschke**

Wrinkledog, Inc

### **Maggie Polson**

Cascade Comprehensive Care

### **Col. Wes French**

173d Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field

### **Tessa Gutierrez**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

### **Todd Andres**

PacificCorp

### **Harry Mauch**

Party Time/Power Pac Rentals

### **Sergio Cisneros**

Sergio's Restaurant

### **Bridgitte Griffin**

AG-SENSE

## Ex Officio Members

City of Klamath Falls

Klamath County

KCEDA

Oregon Institute of Technology

Klamath Community College

KUHS DECA

## Staff

### **Charles Massie**

Executive Director

### **Heather Tramp**

Programs & Marketing Coordinator

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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,

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce represents 450 local businesses and organizations. Our membership has made it very clear that any increase in the minimum wage will negatively impact profitability and the ability to create jobs in the current economic environment.

It is our position the proposed increases disproportionately impact rural businesses. While the economy has improved in metro Oregon most rural parts of the state have yet to really begin the recovery process. The addition of mandated increases of wages, paid sick leave, reporting requirements, and other direct business costs proposed in this session seem to be piling on expenses and stresses at a time we should be making it easier for all businesses to re-establish profitability.

Metro Oregon may be in the position to absorb increased business costs (although we argue differently) by providing higher wages and greater employee benefits it is not fair to apply those kinds of mandates across the entire state without accounting for the very real negative impacts. Our members have managed to weather the yearly cost of living minimum wage increases put in place by Oregon voters but the proposed increases would drive many tax paying, payroll paying, job creating businesses to reassess their future profitability and desire to continue this uphill economic battle.

We ask that you oppose all efforts to increase Oregon's minimum wage further. Increases in the minimum wage hurt rural businesses, result in fewer businesses and jobs, and do not at this time benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles "Chip" Massie  
Executive Director, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce  
541-884-5193  
[cmassie@klamath.org](mailto:cmassie@klamath.org)

*"The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is committed to Klamath County by advancing its economic vitality and quality of life through the education, promotion and networking of our members"*