



Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

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 N. Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce represents 500 local businesses and we support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation.

We ask that you oppose 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.

In discussing this increase with our business community throughout North Clackamas; that includes retailers, manufacturing, distribution centers and various other small and large businesses, all are stating the same facts.

*"This increase will cause our businesses financial harm!
Potentially causing us to perform layoffs and downsize our organizations."*

Take Miles Fiberglass as an example; either they take an increase to labor costs of \$326,184 or hire another 8 ½ employee's and put additional workers back to work!

Small retailers are concerned with the threat of downsizing their work force from 2 and 3 employees down to 1 and 2 and having to go back to working the front counter themselves – rather than managing their business and growing it!

One or two employees may not seem like a lot to you, but to hundreds of small businesses – start doing the math! This will have a huge impact on our economy, increase unemployment and potentially put employer's out of business.

If this passes, will it not be detrimental to our State and to our economy that is barely recovering as it is?

Sincerely,

Laura Edmonds
President & CEO
N. Clackamas Chamber of Commerce