

Subject: Oppose Min Wage Increase written testimony

Oregon has a good system in place with an annual increase each year. Who are you trying to help by raising the minimum wage? Government employees, union employees and most skilled employees already have wages above minimum wage. Restaurant employees excluding wait staff are making above minimum wage now, the wait staff receive minimum wage plus tips. Tips reported increase wages to \$12 to \$15 dollars an hour. Fast food employees would like to make the same as those in sit down establishments but they do not have the same responsibilities.

Who will you affect adversely with an increase? Often those eating at fast food establishments are our working poor that do not have the skills to cook for their family or housing to be able to do so. We have elderly who save so they can go out to eat occasionally or on Sunday. They are already shopping at yard sales and used item establishments. It is true that we may not be able to purchase all that we want, we may not be able to live in the home of our dreams but our needs are being meet. The increase in wage sounds good. It increases the taxes paid for federal and state income tax because the taxpayer has more income. The taxpayer see an overall increase in the items purchased because employers have to cover the additional cost in wages and their share of taxes paid to the government both payroll and income tax. The landlord has to increase the rent because his cost have increased. Who do you actually help when you increase wages? Every one of you who vote for the increase may get reelected because someone thinks you helped them. Did you?

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