



April 13, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
From: Stephanie McGilvra Co-Owner of Sublimity Snow & Skate, Beaverton
Re: Support Raising the Oregon Minimum Wage

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

I am the co-owner of Sublimity Snow & Skate in Beaverton and a member of The Main Street Alliance of Oregon. **I, and The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, support raising the Oregon minimum wage.**

Raising the minimum wage would benefit our community. If people are paid in a manner that keeps up with the cost of living, they are able to afford their basic needs and have a little more room in their budget to spend on the things they love—like skateboarding and snowboarding.

Many of our customers earn minimum wage. A minimum wage increase would allow them to afford a new pair of skate shoes after they have destroyed an old pair, and still be able to pay their electric bill or car payment. That's a positive thing for the whole community! It means minimum wage workers can afford the basics while having a little more money to spend locally. That's good for me and for other small businesses on our street!

Creating more income for others, creates more income for us. It's a beneficial relationship for everyone. I believe increased wages will not only benefit workers but will also benefit businesses' bottom line. **It will result in customers being able to spend more money within the local economy.**

The companies generally behind the argument to keep a low minimum wage are not companies concerned with local communities' best interests. It's usually larger corporations that have a vested interest in keeping the minimum wage low in order to preserve shareholder profits. Larger corporations like Walmart are currently changing their stance on this issue, and starting to champion a (slightly) higher minimum wage. They are starting to see that their workers can't afford to shop with them and pay their bills. That says something.

I would recommend all small businesses support raising the minimum wage; it's a positive thing. Let's do it! It's worked other places, and it will work here.

Regards,
Stephanie McGilvra
Co-Owner, Sublimity Snow & Skate, Beaverton