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Testimony in opposition to:
HB 2008 – HB 2009 – HB 2012 – HB 2004 – HB 2956
SB 327 – SB 597 – SB 682 – SB 130 – SB 332 – SB 610

To the House Committee on Business and Labor and the Senate Committee on Workforce

My name is Geoff Davis with Davis Glass Company in Albany. We are a 2nd generation, 40 year strong, family owned and operated business, providing family wage jobs to 7 employees, and myself. The wage package offered in my company includes health insurance, vacation, and a company profit sharing program. These wages are based on skill level, experience, and merit. An employee has an opportunity to make more per hour, when they show skill level improvement, drive and ambition.

If the minimum wage is increased, what does that mean for the scale of pay that my employees are currently making? Bottom line, it means that my costs will go up, which ultimately passes on to the consumer. How do increased costs benefit anyone? What have we accomplished if the wage standard goes up, but that very same employee now has increased costs due to employers having to raise prices to offset the wage increase? It solves nothing.

The idea of increased minimum wage does not make sense in my business or any small business. If employees want to earn more money, they need to show their employers that they want to advance. What are we teaching our youth of today, if we simply give them more and more? We need our youth to understand even more today, that goals are achieved with hard work and dedication, not free handouts, and expected wage increases.

My daughters are only a few years away from entering the workforce. I love my girls, but they won't be worth \$15/hour at 16 years old! Minimum wage is an entry-level wage earned almost exclusively by teens and young adults starting out in their work lives. Raising minimum wage has one immediate and lasting effect: Loss of job opportunities for them and for the low-skilled. Oregon state representatives and senators, if you have to vote for increasing the minimum wage, do so knowing you are eliminating these opportunities for my daughters and for our next workforce generation.

Thank you for your time.