

Grocery Outlet of McMinnville

April 10, 2015

House Business & Labor Committee

Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear house Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow,

As a small local business in McMinnville I 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.

My Husband Ed and I have owned and operated a small business in McMinnville for the last 8 years. At this time we employ 30 workers. Our business is such that we sell groceries and non-food items at a low cost to our consumers. Raising the minimum wage would not only hurt our business but hurt our customers as we would have to raise our prices to cover the higher wages of our employees or we would have to have fewer employees to cover the rising wage increases. We feel this in a no win solution.

Right now Oregon's minimum wage is currently \$2.00/hour more than the federal minimum wage and Oregon's minimum wage is the second highest rate minimum wage in the us, behind only Washington (\$9.47/hour).

Oregon's historical high minimum wage has not yielded economic gains for Oregon workers. Since 2002 (when Oregon voters passed Measure 25 to increase minimum wage and index for inflation).

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and considering the effects that further increases would have on our and everyone's businesses.

Sheryl and Ed Ryker

Owner/Operators