



April 11, 2015

House Business & Labor Committee  
Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear House Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow:

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce represents over 450 local businesses and we support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation. Oregon's minimum wage (currently \$9.25/hour) is \$2.00 more per hour than the federal minimum wage and the second highest state minimum wage rate in the country.

Employees already earning over \$12 per hour would be negatively impacted by a minimum wage increase. Locally, they buy gas, shop at Wal-Mart, eat at McDonalds, buy groceries at Safeway, etc. All of these businesses (and more) will be impacted by a minimum wage increase and pass the cost along to their customers. As one large employer put it, "...our 730 employees will be impacted as they will get no pay increase, but will pay more for many of their day-to-day purchases."

Small businesses make up 97% of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce members. This is not unique in Pendleton, small businesses are the back bone of the state of Oregon and the Nation overall. The legislature is already considering a paid sick leave mandate that will cost small business \$976 million per biennium. Asking these small businesses to pay the increase in minimum wage will damage these small businesses and ultimately damage Oregon.

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 Pendleton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erika Patton  
President