

Allann Bros

COFFEE ROASTERS

January 30, 2015

Rep. Andy Olson,

It has been brought to our attention that there are talks of raising Oregon minimum wage close to \$12 to \$15 an hour.

Just a little background on who Allann Bros Coffee Roaster is, to help you see the full picture of how this would affect us as a local company. We began in 1972 when our owner Allan Stuart started the company. Our corporate office and warehouse are located off I-5 here in Albany. We have a total of 9 retail locations; Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene and Ashland. Our total employee number count is an average of 185, of that 75% are minimum wage part-time Baristas. Since our geographical location is near University of Oregon and Oregon State University we employ many college students.

If minimum wage was raised to the proposed amount we would be forced to shut down all operations and essentially close our doors. Our employees are our most important asset to this company and we care very much for them and their families. As a Human Resource professional I feel that passing the proposed raise would encourage our younger workforce to abandon any secondary schooling due to a simple fact that they can get a good paying job without the requirement of schooling.

I want to make sure and give you just a small history on me, so you know who is writing this letter. I am a mother of two wonderful daughters and have been in Human Resources for 2 years. My daughter's, like every other parent, is the light of my life. Pursuing a career was always a passion on mine, but dropping out of college to raise a family at 21 ended my pursuit. I had jobs that lead nowhere and I could not afford college with two young children. I was given the opportunity to return to school when I received the Pay It Forward scholarship from University of Phoenix. HR has always been a passion of mine and I finally had a chance to be educated in it. Working fulltime, being an mom and wife, and keeping the household running was not easy. At my lowest moments the only thing that got me through was a quote my Grandfather had always told me; if you don't want to move ahead in life don't find a passion and remember minimum wage is not meant to live off of, it is meant for those trying to get a start.

While in the perfect world a minimum wage of \$12 to \$15 an hour would be great, we do not live in the metro area that can support those wages. Many companies in our areas of service are struggling to just keep their doors open and provide for their employees. Unemployment rates have been dropping and we have seen many Oregonians getting back to work. This change would only bring a dark cloud upon this positive movement as many will be forced to let employees go due to labor cost.

1852 Fescue St. SE, Albany, Oregon 97322

MAIN OFFICE 541.812.8000

800.926.6886

FAX 541.812.8010

www.AllannBrosCoffee.com

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I hope you understand and hear our concerns on this proposal. If you would ever like to talk further into detail about this please contact me at 541.812.8000 extension 306 or email me at hr@allannbroscoffee.com.

Catrina Larsen
Human Resource Generalist
Allann Bros Coffee Roaster