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April 13, 2015

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Workforce
900 Court Street, NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business & Labor
900 Court Street, NE, H-277
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Proposed Legislation to Increase Oregon's Minimum Wage

Dear Senate Chair Dembrow, House Chair Holvey and Members of the Committees,

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 500 businesses and organizations employing 17,000 residents. On behalf of Douglas County job providers, we oppose any effort to increase Oregon's minimum wage.

Oregon's current minimum wage, which automatically adjusts each year based on Portland CPI, is already \$9.25 per hour. Our existing minimum wage exceeds the federal minimum wage by \$2.00 an hour and is the second highest state minimum, behind the state of Washington.

Increases in the minimum wage would hurt businesses all around the state of Oregon resulting in loss of businesses and jobs but, it would be devastating to small rural communities like Roseburg and Douglas County.

History shows the premise that increasing minimum wage will result in economic gains for our citizens is contrary to fact. Oregon's long-standing higher minimum wage has not yielded economic growth for Oregon workers. Since 2002, our unemployment rate has consistently exceeded the federal unemployment rate; our youth unemployment rate has consistently exceeded the federal youth unemployment rate and Oregon's wage and salary income per employee consistently trails the US average.

On the list of reasons why Oregon is unattractive to businesses interested in expansion or relocation, is our already high minimum wage. These proposed bills are a disincentive to economic and business development and job growth. They are adverse to what Oregon and its leadership should be concentrating on—creating an environment for job creation and preservation.

On behalf of our—still economically-challenged—rural community, we respectfully ask that you oppose efforts to increase Oregon's minimum wage. Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of the employers and employees in Douglas County and the state of Oregon.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl
President & CEO

**VISION
MISSION**

To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economic development, community promotion and member programs and services.

cc: Douglas County State Delegation:
The Honorable Jeff Kruse
The Honorable Floyd Prozanski
The Honorable Cedric Ross Hayden
The Honorable Dallas Heard
The Honorable Wayne Krieger

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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