

April 13, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees

From: David Carlson

Re: Support of SB 610 and HB 2009

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is David Carlson. Chair Holvey. Chair Dembrow. Representatives. Senators. How do we ensure sustainable growth for our state? How do we decrease the need for public assistance? How do we increase paths to success for all Oregonians? We raise the wage for those at the bottom. There is no alternative to give the people their buying power back. We know trickle down economics does not work. Yet, this legislative body has continued to give massive tax breaks to large corporations in the form of Gain Share. These are unsustainable practices because the amount gained in income tax does not equal the amount of property taxes lost. Hurting working families through reduced funds for schools. We have watched our middle class diminish because those at the bottom, are having more difficulty supporting themselves without public assistance. We have watched wages at the bottom remain stagnant, while everything else raises in price, including housing, food, and transportation. I myself am in this category as I attempt to attend college.

I have worked in the foodservice industry for a decade. Worked my way up from the dish pit to manage a Papa Murphy's location, Opened three of the first five Jimmy John's in the state, and worked a multitude of different small businesses in Washington County and Portland. I attend Portland Community College for environmental science, which I plan to use in a career of public service. As a co worker and boss, I have watched many in my field struggle to pay bills with less than two jobs, or must have many roommates to keep their rent affordable. This is not because they are lazy or expect their government to take care of them, but because the opportunities of the generation before us are not their. Nobody working 40 hours a week should need public assistance.

This bill is not a random number, but supports creating living wage jobs so that anybody working 40 hours a week does NOT need public assistance. \$15 will add millions in revenue to our state through income taxes and decrease need for public assistance money, that we can then use for schools, infrastructure, and police.

There comes a time when a legislative body gets the chance to enact real change for the people they serve. When politics should take a back seat so the right thing can be done. Forget about elections or party lines. This bill is your time to do the right thing. Fight for the people instead of business. The facts show a negligible loss of jobs, a boost to local business, and a better society.