

I am writing to voice my opinion on HB 2008, 2009, and 2012, which I understand is having a public hearing on Monday, April 13th at 6pm. Unfortunately, I'm not able to attend.

My husband and I live on a small farm near Scotts Mills. Until a few years ago, one of the crops we used to grow was strawberries, which our family grew since the early 1930's. When you talk to other local farmers, large and small, more and more are getting away from hand harvested crops, due to labor shortages and continued minimum wage increases.

I was born and raised on a small farm near Brooks. All 8 of us children worked for my dad as well as for other local farmers picking berries. Most of us worked full time for larger farmers during the summers while we were in high school and college to literally pay for our college. My husband and I have 2 boys that most likely will do the same.

I currently am working part time in the office at my brother's plant nursery. He has several full time employees as well as teenagers that work during the summer. He sells quite a few plants to customers out of state.

So, I tell you all of this history and information for a reason. As I read these 3 House Bills, I do NOT see anything in there about a "training" or "young adult" wage. But if any employer, whether it be a plant nursery, farmer, pizza shop, or gas station, is going to hire a new employee, do you think they are going to pick a young adult over an adult if they are going to have to pay them both \$15/hour? I know I wouldn't. Age 18 is a bit late to teach our young adults how to work. And when we want to encourage secondary education, working during the summers is a great way to help pay for college and keep our young adults out of trouble.

If some of these minimum wage increases go into effect, prices of items I purchase will definitely increase. I see our family eating out less since it will cost us more. Except for towns on Oregon's borders, most restaurants and retail businesses throughout the state should be at the same level of price increases. But what about businesses that sell out of state and have to compete with products produced in states with a much lower wage base? Although my brother pays above minimum wage, \$15/hour will have a huge impact on his and every business that sells out of state! And I wouldn't put it past any business that has high labor costs to possibly move to a neighboring state that has a lower wage base. Please don't contribute to inflation!!

Thank you for reading my e-mail and considering my thoughts on this subject.

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