



April 13, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
From: Yu Te, Owner, MacPCX, Portland
Re: Support Raising the Oregon Minimum Wage

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Yu Te, and I am the owner of MacPCX in NE Portland, a member of The Main Street Alliance of Oregon Leadership Circle, and the President of the Hollywood Boosters. **I, and The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, support raising the Oregon minimum wage.**

MacPCX is Hollywood's neighborhood center for computer training and support. We support individuals and businesses with complete IT solutions, troubleshooting, and problem prevention. We offer the friendliest service in the Hollywood area, and we connect community members and neighbors to opportunity and technology at the most economic cost.

I would like to use my time to get our legislature to think about not just raising the minimum wage, but how to make our small businesses more competitive and to retain capital in the local economy.

The law of supply and demand economics can't be changed, and raising the minimum wage will over time raise the costs of food, etc. and normalize across the board. In theory a minimum wage increase will make a difference, but economics being what it is, given more income and more cash, prices will follow over time.

The biggest corporations are efficient and extract capital from our local economies, partly by not paying a fair living wage, and partly by getting tax breaks.

If the minimum wage were raised in a staggered step, hitting the big boxes first like in Seattle, it will give small businesses, like mine, a window of opportunity to prepare for the wage increase, and for a shift in economic dynamics, if the state can implement the necessary policies, small businesses can execute.

I don't know what the perfect policies are, and I'm not completely sure what small businesses can do to be more competitive than the big businesses. But I believe this is the critical issue, and that raising the minimum wage is only one part of the problem. If we only focus on that, we'll be back to the same issue in five years or however long it takes for wages and costs of living to normalize, and be back to where we are today, with higher wages, but also higher costs. So again, the key has to be somehow to contain the big businesses, and help small businesses be more competitive.

I know that an increase in the minimum wage will help us get closer to a level playing field with Big Business, especially since most of the low wage workers in Oregon work in large

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businesses like the Walmarts and Targets of the world. So, they'll take more of the up front cost, which can be absorbed, and the benefits will come to the local economies.

Workers who earn the least, spend more of their pay in their local communities—in businesses like mine, and others in the Hollywood District in NE Portland. When our customers have more money in their pockets, it means there's more money to keep circulating through our economy, rather than going to line the pockets of Big Business shareholders.

Take the first necessary step to help support small businesses in Oregon—pass legislation to increase the minimum wage. Help create strong, thriving Main Street economies!

Thank you for your time,
Yu Te
Owner, MacPCX, Portland