

April 10, 2015

House Business & Labor Committee

Senate Workforce Committee

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear House Chair Holvey and Senate Chair Dembrow,

The Grants Chamber of Commerce represents 525 local businesses and we support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation. The proposed increases are harmful to business.

Restrains A Businesses Ability To Expand .

The impact is multilevel and affects the organizational chart of a company.

Example: A company that currently has entry level staff at \$10.00 and supervisory staff at \$15.00 per hour. That step change total increase is \$10.00 per hour which could be creating another hiring position.

Will Impact Economic Growth Especially In Rural Areas.

Small businesses account for 98 percent of Oregon firms; they employ over half the state's workforce and play a vital role in our economy. That's especially true for rural Oregon, which depends on small business for economic growth. In rural Josephine County we are just now seeing baby steps at recovery from the 2007-2009 Recession. This is a complete step backwards for business.

We ask that you oppose efforts to increase Oregon's minimum wage further. Increases in the minimum wage would hurt local businesses, result in fewer businesses and jobs, and would not benefit our state.

Sincerely,

Colene Martin

Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, CEO

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**Grants Pass and Josephine County**

**Chamber of Commerce**

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