

**Subject:** Oppose min wage increase testimony

Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposed minimum wage increase in the state of Oregon. We already have one of the highest minimum wages in the U.S. If it goes up even higher yet, I don't want to, but I will be forced to lay off a number of my employees because I will not be able to afford to pay them. Some of my employees have been with our store for a number of years and I know they need the job however I won't be able to keep them employed if the minimum wage is increased.

I am a hardware store owner and we have been in business for over 40 years and have established a very faithful client base and I'd hate to have to lay off some of my employees serving these clients due to the minimum wage increase. I can understand there are a number of people in favor of the increase in the minimum wage but it's going to hurt them in the long run because they will be without a job because employers will not be able to stay in business if they are forced to pay their employees more so they will be forced to cut down on their staff. We as employers in the city of Portland are already forced to pay our employees sick pay and if the minimum wage goes up it will be a double burden on our finances and we can't do anything but cut down on the number of people we have working for us, meaning an increase in the rate of unemployment.

I hope the people in the state legislature wake up and listen to the business owners for a change they sure didn't listen to the us in the City of Portland when they forced us to pay our employees sick pay. I'm very surprised more and more businesses aren't failing in Oregon due to high taxes the businesses have to pay let alone the proposed minimum wage increase. PLEASE LISTEN TO US AS BUSINESS OWNERS !!!!!

**Please respond in an email with any questions comments or concerns!**

Thank you,

*Kathy Lambert*

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