

Paperjam

P R E S S

June 17, 2015

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Deborah Field, Co-Owner, Paperjam Press, Portland
Re: Support of HB 2012-1

Dear Chair Hoyle, Vice-Chairs Gilliam and Smith Warner and Committee Members,

I am the co-owner of Paperjam Press in NE Portland, and a member of the Executive Team of The Main Street Alliance of Oregon. **I, and The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, support HB 2012—raising the Oregon minimum wage to \$13.00 an hour by 2018. Additionally, we feel that there is a clear need for local municipalities to be able to raise the wage higher than the state minimum, as the cost of living varies greatly in Oregon.**

I have joined other small business owners who have decided that **paying our employees a minimum wage of at least \$13.00** is not only the right thing to do, but **is a very good business decision**. At Paperjam Press, all of our new employees start at \$15 per hour. In my experience, investing in our employees, sending them a message that they are worth a fair wage, goes a long way. When employees feel they are important enough to be compensated for their work at a level that allows them to have a better quality of life, we are enhancing a sense of confidence and pride. This can lead to better performance and a stronger sense of happiness and loyalty which can be a factor for improving the bottom line.

When I talk to my fellow business owners, the **#1 thing that we can all agree on is the need for more customers**. We feel by being leaders and fighting for a higher minimum wage, we are supporting our local communities by bringing more money to those local economies. The statistics show that lower wage earners will spend more money in their local business districts, which is primarily made up of small businesses.

I'm a proud Oregon native—I grew up in Pendleton and now live in Portland, so I have seen first hand how diverse our state can be. **It's clear that the cost of living in Portland is substantially higher than other parts of the state, and therefore feel that local cities and counties should be able to raise the minimum wage higher than the state minimum**. This would allow each city and county to enact a wage that makes sense for their community, while ensuring that all working Oregonians have access to a fair wage.

My experience of running a small business has shown me that my employees understand the importance of supporting other small businesses and shopping locally. So, by giving them more money to spend, they will be increasing the dollars flowing into the local businesses which adds more customers. In addition, by paying a higher minimum wage, we will become more competitive for attracting quality employees.

By paying our employees a wage of at least \$13.00 we become part of a combating a bigger issue— income equality. By paying a higher minimum wage, we are contributing to narrowing the income gap which supports a more democratic income distribution system in this country.

Raising the minimum wage to \$13.00 by 2018 is a Win-Win for all, please support HB 2012.

Yours respectfully,
Deborah Field
Paperjam Press, Portland