



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Workforce Committee
900 NE Court Street, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of legislation to raise the state minimum wage.

A family of four who makes \$23,850 per year is considered to be in poverty. Oregonians making the minimum wage of \$9.25 per hour in 2015 will earn only \$19,240 per year. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's "Out of Reach 2014 Report," a single mother in Oregon must work 72 hours per week at minimum, or make at least \$16.28 per hour at 40 hours per week, in order to provide adequate and affordable housing for herself and her children.

More and more new jobs pay at or near the minimum wage. While Oregon has long been ahead of most states, our current minimum wage is not enough. No one who works should have to live near or below the poverty line. No one who works should have to rely on government assistance programs to survive and feed their family. Contrary to the stereotype of teenagers earning a few extra dollars, the median minimum wage earner is a woman in her 30s working full-time to support her family.

We respectfully urge your support for legislation to raise Oregon's minimum wage and provide economic security for hardworking families.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner