

Dear Senate Workforce Committee

As a small business owner, I grow cherries and wine grapes in The Dalles, I oppose the raising of the minimum wage. We already have one of the highest minimum wages in the nation with the potential for a yearly increase. Please take pause and consider what the unintended consequences will be with an increase in the minimum wage. An increase in minimum wage will increase all my other costs related to payroll, SAIF, Unemployment Insurance, FICA, and etc. The ripple effect of the increase will be my over minimum wage full time employees salaries rising to reflect the increase in minimum wage. As a School Board director, our CFO has made us aware that the increase in minimum wage would effect the School's payroll costs the same as the private sector and small businesses. Our Board and Union just got done successfully negotiating and ratifying our Union contracts. I believe the Schools and the private sector have been denied a seat at the table to negotiate on minimum wage, sick leave, state retirement accounts or PERS reform and that seat has only been offered to our Public Employee Unions and our legislators. Remember all paychecks and monies originate with the private sector ,we deserve to be at the table. Who looks out for the employers and the private sector?

Sincerely  
Dean McAllister