



*Grants Pass & Josephine County*  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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February 1, 2016

Dear Senate Workforce Committee,

Chambers all across the State of Oregon represent small business; they rely on our organizations to support them because they are bound to running their business day- to- day. So when we write to you about the small businesses we represent we are talking about hundreds or even thousand that we speak for.

For the last year and a half the State of Oregon's intimidation about minimum wage is at top of mind for every small business. Instead of moving forward with their expansion plans and additional hiring needs they are waiting on the outcome of what Oregon does with minimum wage. If this is approved their action plans will then change to layoffs.

The Facts are a minimum wage increase will;

- Cause a reduction of 55,000 jobs that our local communities desperately need
- Raise costs on fixed income seniors who can't afford it
- Severely damage small business ability to compete and grow in Oregon because they can't absorb the costs
- Make it harder for people to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan and cause them to lose additional income on increased health care and daycare costs.
- Would force local nonprofit charitable organizations to cut back on critical services.

The data facts about the issue are falling on deaf ears and we do not understand why we are not being given the respect that business owners deserve and once were recognized for in this state.

We ask you to please hear the voices of the people that are creating the jobs, not the voices of those that are trying to tear our beautiful state down a pathway of more unemployment.

Sincerely,

Colene Martin, President/CEO