

The minimum wage currently applies across the board to every employee. As an agricultural employer I am able to employ high school kids as young as age 14. They love earning their first paychecks and learning about being productive and appreciated. These kids do not need a "living wage" nor are most of them capable of actually earning a living wage during their early teen years.

I will no longer be able to hire these young kids if the minimum wage climbs any higher - it is already pushing the boundaries of what most can "earn" during their first season or two working. They simply lack the maturity, experience and judgement until they have worked for a year or two. There are the rare one or two, that come along now and again that do have what it takes. Those special ones earn more as they take on more responsibilities. If we don't increase their pay we would loose them to other employers who will pay them more. Please figure out a way to keep a learning minimum wage, or something, that allows younger kids/students a way to learn valuable job skills and get paid fair wages for what they are capable of doing.

Sincerely, Michelle Timberman

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