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Attn: Senate Workforce Committee

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 500 businesses and organizations employing 17,000 residents. On behalf of Douglas County job providers, we oppose any effort to increase Oregon's minimum wage.

- Oregon's minimum wage is currently \$9.25/hour. It is automatically adjusted each year based on Portland consumer price index (CPI).
- Oregon's minimum wage exceeds the federal minimum wage by \$2.00 an hour and is the eighth highest state minimum wage in the US.

Increases in the minimum wage would hurt businesses all around the state of Oregon resulting in loss of business and jobs but, it would be devastating to small rural communities like Roseburg and Douglas County.

History shows the premise that increasing minimum wage will result in economic gains for our citizens is contrary to fact. Oregon's long-standing higher minimum wage has not yielded economic growth for Oregon workers. Since 2002 (when Oregon voters passed Measure 25 to increase minimum wage and index for inflation):

- Oregon's unemployment rate has consistently exceeded the federal rate
- Oregon's youth unemployment rate has consistently exceeded the federal youth unemployment rate
- Oregon's wage and salary income per employee consistently trails the US average
- The average Oregon worker makes 92 cents on the dollar to the average US worker – a difference of over \$3,200/yr – and the gap is widening
- Oregon's poverty rate now exceeds the US poverty rate

On the list of reasons why Oregon is unattractive to businesses interested in expansion or relocation, is our already high minimum wage. These proposed bills are a disincentive to economic and business development and job growth. They are adverse to what Oregon and its leadership should be concentrating on – creating an environment for job creation and preservation.

The answer to low wages & poverty? Get Oregon's economy moving, make it easier for business to grow and create family wage jobs here in our local communities. On behalf of our – still economically-challenged – rural community, we respectfully oppose the Governor's minimum wage increase proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of the employers and employees in Douglas County and the state of Oregon.

Best regards,
ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl
President & CEO

To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.

**VISION
MISSION**