

Senate Bill 1532 – When Helping Really Hurts

Increasing minimum wage by a state mandate does not equate with free enterprise. Because this in no way equates to the productivity of the worker, it becomes a disincentive to employee diligence. Raising the minimum wage above the national minimum puts our farmers at a competitive disadvantage. The same goes for any business so encumbered.

The youth and elderly will experience a reduction in available jobs. Business failures will increase or the business will operate with less employees. Jobs will go out of state or overseas, especially by multi-national corporations. The very people we are trying to help will find less opportunity to find employment.

Fifty-five years ago I was finishing a master's degree in Agricultural Business Management. The final was a comprehensive oral examination. The question on the minds of the professors was, "If Cezar Chavez is able to unionize grape workers, will growers be able to pass the cost on to buyers?" The answer then, remains to this day. Farmers harvest their crops, present it for sale and ask what will you pay?

Why take this step to help the minimum wage. We reduce opportunity for all the loss of jobs; failure of business and small farmers.

Please do not move us more into socialism in our state.

Charles Starr