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February 2, 2016

RE: SB 1532

Dear Senator Dembrow, Senator Thatcher and Committee Members:

“The McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce opposes the proposed legislation in [SB 1532](#), [SB 1592](#), and [HB 4054](#) to raise the minimum wage. We believe that all businesses should have the autonomy to pay their workforce at the level they deem economically sustainable. We believe mandated wage increases outside of what is already in place in Oregon will hurt the economic sustainability of our local business climate, do a disservice to our most vulnerable workforce participants, and will not achieve the desired outcomes that the authors and supporters wish to achieve.”

It is important to be clear that we do not oppose all legislation to raise the minimum wage, just this legislation right now, as we want to look at this issue by issue and bill by bill. If you refer to the recently published report, “Oregon’s Minimum Wage Jobs Facts, Figures, and Context” published by the Oregon Employment Department, you will see that we have a system in place in Oregon that puts us #8 in the nation for the current highest minimum wage and that minimum wage provides the same buying power that those dollars did in the late 1970’s.

We do support continued talks and brainstorming around other ways to increase pay for all the citizens of Oregon while maintaining the value of our local dollar to protect the citizens on fixed and retirement income as well as social services. It is through business development (resources such as the Office of Small Business Advocacy) and growth and sustainable economic practices that will naturally and sustainably increase pay for all employees. The McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to work on this problem any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Knottingham', followed by a horizontal line.

Nathan Knottingham
President/CEO