2/1/16

To Whom It May Concern:

As the President of KLCD, Inc, I am opposed to the dramatic increase in Oregon's minimum wage for the following reasons:

1. Minimal gain will be seen by employees with an increase in minimum wage because they will be bumped to a higher tax bracket.
2. Businesses will be forced to raise prices, they are in business to make money and will not absorb this cost from their profits. This will effect all consumers.
3. This will severely damage the ability for small business to compete and grow in Oregon. Companies will move out of state. They won't absorb the costs of labor when the marketplace will not support the higher consumer price.
4. Minimum wage was never designed to be a living wage. It was intended to be an untrained pay versus a career pay. That's why people choose to better themselves by furthering their education or trade. Why should those with less ambition be paid the same than others that have invested years to obtain a better wage.

How an increase in minimum wage will impact my service based business directly:
1. We will be forced to raise prices which will effect many of our customers who are seniors living on a fixed income. These seniors will not have the opportunity to have someone they know, like, and trust, in their home anymore.
2. A higher minimum wage decreases my working capital, limiting my market share because of increased overhead. I will be forced to scale back and not build and expand my business like originally forecasted in my business plan.
3. By raising the minimum wage it limits our ability as a small corporation to give raises and pay our employees based on their performances. Minimum wages are meant to be a starting off point, not a long term wage. But in an industry with turn over, I don't want to have to pay the high costs to train a non dedicated worker. I want to pay my employees a good living wage as they grow with my business.

"There is no substitute for hard work" Thomas Edison

Thank You,

Karen Colburn
K & L Chem-Dry