

To whom it may concern,

As the new 3 tier increase for the minimum wage is being proposed I'd ask you to consider Rural Oregon. I know that it's been said this is a compromise that will help the small towns of Oregon but with this increase it will still devastate us in Malheur County and other rural Oregon counties. Even if the wage goes to \$12.50 that's a \$5.25 difference between us and our Idaho neighbors who are 600 yards away! We have to stay competitive on this global market and when it comes time for our customers to buy, they don't care if we have a higher minimum wage, which increase the products price. They will buy from the vendor who has the lowest price. Putting this minimum wage on the businesses that compete globally is a huge burden to place upon us. For our small businesses, they don't have the daily income from customers to support this pay increase. Rural and Eastern Oregon are different from the big cities of Portland, Salem etc. Please consider this as you work on this minimum wage bill.

Our rent isn't as much as it is in the cities, our cost of living isn't comparable to the bigger cities. You can survive on the \$9.25 an hour here. We are different and because of that, the proposed bill should reflect that. Please don't drive our small businesses out of this state or force them to close their doors. We need them in our communities.

Thank you for your time