

February 3rd, 2015

To the State Legislators of Oregon,

I am respectfully writing you this letter from representing myself and all other restaurants of Oregon. I recently became aware through the local press that you are thinking about raising our current minimum wage to \$15.00. What do you hope to gain by doing this? I just want a straight up answer, do you honestly hope to better someone's life. First of all most jobs that pay 9.25 are entry level jobs requiring little or no skills. In my profession as a restaurateur only entry level and dishwashers make minimum wage. Waitresses make anywhere from 18.00-22.00 with the tips they claim and trust me no waitress claims all she makes! So now you will ask we to increase their wages by 5.75 which will make me have to raise the menu prices and they will get yet another increase with an increased tip ratio because of higher menu prices! This country is supposed to be about opportunity not entitlement, Anyone who wants to can go to school and better themselves can but why should they? All my employees know do a better job and you will get a raise. But the way things are now that is no longer necessary, just wait a year and you'll get a raise. I was very studious in school and was taught that the government was run similar to a debate and the one who presented the best argument triumphed. If that is so I would welcome a debate with anyone to present my arguments. You are crushing the American Spirit with your system of handouts and entitlements. You will drive many factories from our state and millions in revenue and jobs will be lost! Invite me to speak if you are so sure of this cause and are not afraid of my arguments.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Caldwell