

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to encourage you to not pass the proposed minimum wage bill (HB 4054). I am a small business owner. Our employees are compensated at above-minimum-wage levels. Working with a number of small businesses who do hire minimum-wage employees, I know what will be some of the impacts of the passage of the bill. If these businesses are forced to implement HB 4054, many will simply pass on the increased cost to their customers. Oftentimes, the preponderance of these customers are the very ones who are least able to pay these increased prices. So, I ask you to re-think the “Why?” of HB 4054. What are you trying to accomplish? If you want livable wage jobs, focus on job creation and job training. There are ways to work with the private sector to promote business development, start-up companies and the training necessary to ensure a jobs-ready workforce. In the end, if you pursue this cooperative path, Oregon will attract new employers. All Oregon employers can benefit from these cooperative efforts and Oregon workers will see their wages increase. Of these things I am confident.

Thank you for your service to our fine state, and for the chance to communicate my thoughts.

My Best Regards,  
Mark Wickman

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