

Kucera, Inc.  
Dba Mia & Pia's Pizzeria & Brewhouse  
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February 8, 2016

Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, Oregon

RE: HS 4054

Greetings:

Please consider this letter written testimony in opposition to HS 4054 and all the attempts to raise minimum wage currently being addressed by the Oregon House and Senate.

This testimony is being submitted by email to [hbl.exhibits@state.or.us](mailto:hbl.exhibits@state.or.us). Please include this testimony in the testimony for ALL bills attempting to raise minimum wage that are presented this legislative session.

I would LOVE to be in Salem today for the Rally at the Capitol opposing attempts to raise the minimum wage, but, like so many small business owners in Oregon, the day to day obligations – to our customers, to our employees, to our community – make it very difficult to get away to participate in such activities. Another significant factor in deciding to not attend is the cost of travel and the cost of paying someone to cover my responsibilities for the day.

Our business is a family pizza parlor and was established by my husband's parents in 1987. We have since moved added a small microbrewery. We are Oregon lottery retailers and also provide catering and bar service to supplement our restaurant income. We currently have 17 employees, down from a one time high of 25 employees. We were very proud years ago to offer a group insurance plan for our employees. We don't do that anymore. We used to offer up to two weeks paid vacation. This went away with the mandated paid sick leave.

The year 2015 will actually end profitably for Mia & Pia's... the previous two years did not.

During these times of struggle we have still managed to gain some very positive local recognition, such as receiving the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Commitment to Community Award and "Best Buzz" award at the Taste of Klamath for our beer.

We are opposed to raising the minimum wage for a number of reasons:

\* Many businesses won't be able to raise prices fast enough to keep pace with the increased expense of a higher minimum wage. Some customers won't be able to afford higher prices, resulting in a loss of sales. Some businesses will have to close their doors.

- \* Struggling businesses don't sell well. Closings will likely be ugly foreclosures instead of people being able to take advantage of cashing in on their sweat equity.
- \* The higher retailer prices will hurt the people the wage increase is supposed to help.
- \* Many people on minimum wage are able to participate in supplemental programs. An increase in their wages will limit their eligibility for programs, but they won't necessarily be making enough money to take care of the expenses themselves.
- \* Our region in Oregon is still struggling to recovery from the recession. Raising the minimum wage won't help.
- \* A higher minimum wage will make Oregon less attractive to businesses that might be considering locating in Oregon.
- \* Oregon businesses may look at relocating to states that are more business friendly and less expensive.
- \* It is totally demoralizing to me (and other entrepreneurs) to have another burden heaped on... I want to love my home state and contribute to its successful future. I sure don't feel any love coming back!

To summarize, isn't it better that a little business like ours is employing 17 people rather than having 17 more people unemployed?

Please support the people in Oregon who are employing fellow Oregonians. Give us some incentive to grow rather than another burden that threatens our very existence. Think I'm being melodramatic? I'd like to invite any elected Senator or Representative to spend a day in my shoes. And remember, there are many more people like me in Oregon than the few hundred of you elected to go to Salem.

Please do not vote for the increased minimum wage. Do something truly good for Oregon. Please support bills that stimulate the economy and lighten the regulatory burden.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Very truly yours,,

KUCERA, INC.

Jodi Kucera, Sec.  
Mia & Pia's Pizzeria & Brewhouse