

February 10, 2016

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Policy Position SB 1532: Relating to Minimum Wage

Clackamas County opposes SB 1532: The Board of County Commissioners opposes SB 1532, which establishes a tiered system for determination of minimum wage based on size and geographic location of employer. Clackamas County feels this legislation is proposing too much and seeking to implement changes at too quick a rate. We also worry SB 1532 will drive industry and businesses away from areas within the state, and possibly out of Oregon entirely, where lower wage and entry level positions support communities.

We do not disagree that wage disparity exists, but feel it can be met with other policy changes rather than a minimum wage increase. Alternative policy could include addressing affordable housing costs and making reasonable land use laws that encourage traded sector industry to locate in Oregon. We believe policy changes of this nature would help to address the unwieldy rises in single and multifamily homes and also provide more family wage jobs to shorten the wage gap.

We urge a "no" vote for SB 1532.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.