

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to inform you of my outrage over this contemptuous overreach of government power and intrusion into private affairs concerning the passing of SB 1532, the minimum wage increase in Oregon.

This intrusion is morally reprehensible for the following reasons:

- I and my shareholders, not the State of Oregon, divide an owning interest in this business. It is we, not the State, who have the right to enter into labor contracts.
- I, not the State of Oregon, know what my clients are willing to pay for goods and services, including the labor, its cost.
- I am already charging the maximum amount possible for my industry.
- On average, my industry makes between 7-10% net profit per annum.
- Last year my net profit was 0% (that means we broke even).
- I already pay my staff above the minimum wage rate, but I do so voluntarily.
- I resent the State's immoral decision to rend me of my God given freedom and liberty to continue doing so at my own discretion, and to the satisfaction of my staff.
- This is nothing more than an illegitimate attempt by government to force the redistribution of wealth an immoral way.

The problem is, you are quickly running out of other people's wealth to give away. I run my business with the purpose of creating sustainable, living wage jobs for the people I employ.

The dishonorable actions of the State further suggest that the workers in the State of Oregon are incapable of achieving any sort of success based upon their own merit and value they bring to the workplace. The State is deliberately supplanting private virtue, and individual entrepreneurship of which each and every one of us engages in, and is replacing it with the prerogatives of the State to promote advancement, thus exacerbating dependence upon the State for the sustenance of one's life and needs.

FINALLY: WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF SLAVERY? IS IT NOT ONE WHO IS COMPELLED BY USE OF ILLEGITIMATE FORCE, AGAINST HIS OR HER FREE WILL, TO WORK FOR THE UNEARNED BENEFIT OF ANOTHER?

Is that not what the State of Oregon is proposing to do? Illegitimately propping up the lives of some, while tearing down and destroying the lives of others at the expense of the latter? Is not my labor and my effort and my sowing being ripped from me and bestowed to one who has not earned it? By rights, that is what this law proposes to do.

FREEDOM IS THE ABSENCE OF ILLEGITIMATE FORCE. The purpose of government is to project the public from the overreach of such force, not to become that force themselves.

I am demanding the cessation of this bill. Please oppose it with all your vigor.

Sincerely,
Cody Owen, President
Eden Scapes, CORP