

February 12, 2016

Re: Proposals to increase statewide minimum wage

Dear Representative,

The Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber of Commerce represents 525 local businesses and we support Oregon's current minimum wage law that indexes the minimum wage each year based on inflation.

The idea that neighboring counties fall into the mid-range and small range sections of our state creates an incomprehensible rural division. This in itself impacts our communities in unimaginable ways.

Restraints A Businesses Ability To Expand.

The impact is multilevel and affects the organizational chart of a company.

Will Impact Economic Growth Especially In Rural Areas.

Small businesses account for 98 percent of Oregon firms; they employ over half the state's workforce and play a vital role in our economy. This is especially true for rural areas of Oregon such as Josephine County; we depend on small business for economic growth. In rural Josephine County we are just now seeing baby steps at recovery from the 2007-2009 Recession. This is a complete step backwards for business.

Finally it creates unthinkable consequences on fixed income seniors and non-profit organizations.

We ask that you **Vote NO on SB1532**. It will result in fewer businesses and jobs, which means less tax revenues to city, county and state.

Sincerely,

Colene Martin

**Colene Martin, President/ CEO
Grants Pass and Josephine County
Chamber of Commerce**