

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I urge a “NO” vote on the proposal to raise the current minimum wage from its current scheduled increase gradually over a period of years to \$14.75 by the year 2022. As attested by the contentious debate and narrow passage margin of votes, this bill does not address the heart of the economic problem, alleviate a perceived need, nor reduce burdens placed on under skilled and underemployed individuals throughout the state.

As has been demonstrated in Washington and other areas, government mandating a minimum wage base has had disastrous effects on every community where introduced. The most recent example is Seattle where there is an outmigration of service businesses no longer able to economically survive do to the burdens of employee costs, by far the largest single cost factor in any business.

Though I applaud Congress’ concern, I believe this bill is misguided in its attempt to address an issue impossible to legislate. Again, I urge a “No “ vote on Monday.

Thank you

*Dan Cox,
Bend Oregon*