

2/12/16

Rep. Jim Weider, et. al.
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

Rep. Weidner:

Your opposition to the proposed Oregon minimum wage legislation is appreciated. It seems appropriate, however, that people from your district should include surrounding legislators in registering our opposition to SB 1532.

As you know, I preside over a 70-employee business in McMinnville. The financial challenges facing our business will be hugely exacerbated by the proposed minimum wage hike – not only in direct expense, but in the indirect expenses as others pass along the costs. The likely alternative for us, and others, will be to reduce benefits to all employees and eliminate jobs as needed. We simply cannot afford this kind of increase.

It's incomprehensible to me that Oregon legislators are fast-tracking such sweeping legislation with no true opportunity for public debate, with no true opportunity for the opposition to make its case. And worse, it's being done during the "short session" that we Oregonians were promised would be for budget adjustments and emergency needs ... this is neither.

In 45 years of watching the Oregon Legislature closely, this effort is one of the most blatant ideological power plays I have witnessed. When this measure is added together with the huge sales taxes on business from the past (Measures 66-67) and perhaps future (Measure 28), I can only hope there will be an unprecedented political backlash.

We hope you will continue your opposition to SB 1532 as it heads to the House.

Jeb Bladine
President

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