

Dear Elected officials,

As I review the proposed minimum wage increase I have concerns I feel compelled to share. I am all for living wage jobs and in fact pay many of my employees far more than the state mandated minimum wage. Being in the food service sector however means that our team is many times comprised of young, unqualified, unskilled laborers.

I am writing today to urge you to bring a fair plan to the table that includes a provision for entry level employees.

We certainly cannot absorb the proposed increase without raising prices to a point where our products and services are sure to become undesirable.

Also consider these facts:

- * Raising the minimum wage would raise costs for fixed income seniors with no ability to pay for increases
- * Oregon economists estimate increasing Oregon's minimum wage to \$12/hr will cause a reduction of 52,000 jobs statewide
- * There will be a negative impact on small business as they don't have the ability to absorb the increased costs
- * Minimum wage workers at \$12/hr would no longer qualify for Oregon Health Plan and would be forced to pay additional health care costs wiping out the increase in their earnings.
- * Increases in minimum wage would force non-profit charitable organizations to cut back on services

I hope you will consider the consequences brought forth in endorsing the proposal.

Thank you for your valuable time,

Steve DeAngelo, President
DeAngelo's Catering & Events