

Marcia Kelley
Salem Oregon

SB 1532-A

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee:

My name is Marcia Kelley. I reside in Salem Oregon and am a former business owner. I have signed the front of a paycheck. When I owned a small business all my staff was paid more than the minimum wage.

I have read some of the testimony presented against the proposed legislation that argues against the wage increase.

While few give examples of the exact hardship some give figures.

I urge you to take your calculators out and do the numbers yourself.

At 50 cents per hour a full time worker would earn \$260 per quarter more working 40 hours per week for 13 weeks. For seasonal crops the harvest could last 13 weeks.

I point this out because some testimony indicates an additional annual cost to the business which is not consistent with any calculation, even if the entire number employees worked full time.

Because the wage is phased in and has different levels for regional areas, business owners should be able to phase in the additional prices as well.

It should also be noted that while the “Oregon is not friendly to business” Ernst and Young has ranked Oregon among the 5 lowest effective tax rate on a regular basis. (Business Oregon website)

When low wage workers have more money in their pockets they will spend that money in the Oregon economy.

A well thought out legislative proposal is far preferable than a one size fits all measure on the ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.