Chair Holvey & Committee Members

My name is Anna Scharf and I am here on behalf of Scharf Farms; a 100+ year old family owned and operated farm in Polk County.

We are a medium sized farming operation with an average of 17 employees. We have NO employees earning the current minimum wage but several that will be under the proposed "glide path increase" for Polk county. Polk County is not considered a frontier county even though the primary economic driver in Polk County is Agriculture.

The passage of SB1532 will increase our annual payroll by 24% and our operating budget by 5% including compression. In many years this is greater than our profit margin.

In order to continue to operate our family farm, we WILL install a robotic palletizer and eliminate 2-3 workers, we WILL use our mechanical grape harvester instead of hiring 40+ pickers a day during grape harvest, and we WILL adjust the crops we raise to ones that require less labor.

In addition to my rural family farm, I also fear for the jobs that WILL be lost at my little K-12 public school. The property tax dollars that support it come primarily from EFU land and with approximately 9 employees under the "glide path range", plus compression, plus a substantial PERS increase in 2017-18, cut backs in staff or programs WILL be the only answer.

I also fear for my local county fair. It provides one of the few remaining opportunities for summer youth employment. Again, the proposed "glide path" WILL mean the elimination of some of these positions or possibly the fair being eliminated altogether.

I have watched the SEIU and the AFLCIO testify over the last two weeks and they have said that even if SB1532 passes they will not guarantee that they will not go after a ballot measure. I urge you to NOT pass far reaching, fast tracked legislation due to their pressure. Listen to your constituents, small businesses owners, school districts and the vast amount of people that will be negatively affected by this decision.

Regards,

Anna Scharf
Scharf Farms, Inc.