

Honorable Paul Holvey, Chairman  
House Business and Labor Committee

Chairman Holvey and members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Bennett,

I am a 3rd generation farmer in the Salem area and am very concerned about the increase in the minimum wage.

We are growers, packers and shippers of dry bulb onions. Our company ships approximately 750 semi loads a year through the United States and around the world.

Our competition is not only here in the United States but many other countries around the world that have cheaper labor to produce their products. The increase of minimum wage here in Oregon will enable us from being competitive in the market.

If this minimum wage increase prevails we will be forced to go to Automated equipment. This would eliminate approximately 25% of our current labor force.

We are currently paying above the minimum wage to our employee's that have been with us for several years based on their experience.

I believe that agriculture should be exempt from this forced labor increase as we cannot pass this increase on to our sales market as other industries do.

Sincerely,  
Greg Bennett

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