

To: House Business and Labor Committee

From: Fidel Flores Bautista, Woodburn

Re: Support for increasing Oregon's minimum wage

Date: February 15, 2016

Dear Chair Paul Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Fidel Flores Bautista. I am 65 years old, and I live in Woodburn, Oregon. I work long hours in a plant nursery for very low wages. I earn about \$300 dollars a week and I have not gotten a wage increase in all the years I have worked at the nursery. I have also worked in the fields picking blueberries and blackberries in the mornings, and then at a cannery in the afternoons. And even with those two jobs, I struggled to pay the rent. Today, I can only pay my rent, insurance, gas, water, and telephone bills with the help of my children. If it were not for them, I could not afford to pay everything. Everything was so much more difficult when my children were growing up. We would pick in the rain and mud, in the hot sun, with scratches on our hands from the thorns on the blackberries. Even when working very hard, it was never enough to buy food and clothes for my children.

So today, I ask you to please support raising the minimum wage to help families like mine, hardworking people.

Thank you for your time,

Fidel Flores Bautista