



February 15, 2016

Honorable Paul Holvey, Chairman
House Business and Labor Committee

Chairman Holvey and Members of the Committee,

My wife and I own and operate a grass seed farm near Harrisburg, Oregon. Every year during our harvest season, July – September, we hire at least 2 people, usually high school or college students from Linn and/or Lane Counties. These employees have earned not only money on our farm but life experience.

Most employees have stayed with our farm for multiple years. We are proud of what our employees have accomplished. They have gone into their careers as a beautician, a nurse, a mechanical engineer, a social worker currently getting a masters in trauma, 2 school teachers, and a fireman.

The positions our farm offers require no experience, but just a willingness to work. We train them to operate machinery so they are efficient and safe. As they gain experience, we have given raises as the employee shows responsibility and competency within their job requirements.

These minimum wage jobs give students an opportunity to learn how to work. When the students get to their chosen careers, they already understand responsibility and have a good work ethic.

Higher minimum wage will only increase my labor costs as a small agricultural business. I will be unable to pass these costs along to the consumer. I will have to re-evaluate my hiring process. If minimum wage is increased, I will have to look to experienced employees only. This limits my work force options.

Minimum wage was and is intended for entry level positions. Minimum wage was never intended to be a "living wage".

We ask that you do NOT support SB 1532-A.

Nick Bowers
Tydan Farms, Inc.