

From: Dale Briggs [mailto:dcbiggs@gmavt.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 9:50 AM

Subject: Minimum Wage

I am Alma Briggs and our family owns a dairy farm in Addison, Vermont. In 2016 we put robotic milkers into our 50 year old freestall barn. One of the biggest reasons was the continually rising cost of employees to get the milking done. We were able to cut down on help and now we are able to give high school students part time jobs. We give them flexible hours around school, sports, social and family times. Presently we give 3 students work, with more wanting a job on our farm. I have seen them grow and mature in being responsible, having good work ethics, and building confidence in themselves. They have thanked me for giving them a job that they really enjoy.

We CAN NOT afford Vermont raising the minimum wage. Some businesses in Vermont ARE going to close their doors if this wage increase does pass. Please do NOT mandate these increases, so more people in this state can keep their jobs.