

January 29, 2018

House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today in support of the \$15 Minimum Wage initiative currently being discussed in committee. According to the Center for Wage and Employment Dynamics (University of California, Berkeley 2016), and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (2015), an increase in the Minimum Wage will be an effective means of improving living standards for low-wage workers and their families. It would also help to stabilize the economy and the state budget by producing significant fiscal savings from reduced expenditures on safety net programs.

In the end, the costs of the minimum wage initiative would be levied by turnover reductions, productivity increases and modest commodity price increases. Any adverse employment effects would be modest. Research has also shown that additional family income improves educational outcomes on a variety of measures.

I urge this committee to take up this initiative, and to lobby your fellow legislators in support of a bill. In all, a \$15 Minimum Wage plan would provide an additional low-cost safety net for low-income Vermonters in an ever complex economy and an increased stable work pool for continued economic growth.

Sincerely,

Larry Williams
Shrewsbury, Vermont 05738

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Williams', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.