

From: Kate Whelley McCabe [mailto:info@vtevap.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 9:24 AM
To: Kayla Dewey
Subject: Written Testimony for Today's Hearing on Minimum Wage

Dear Senate Committee on Economic Development:

My name is Kate Whelley McCabe. I own and operate a small manufacturing company, Vermont Evaporator Company (VEC), here in Montpelier. VEC manufactures and sells backyard sap evaporation units for hobby sugar makers.

Since the company began operating in July of 2015, VEC has put \$300,000 to work in the economy; many of those dollars have stayed in Vermont and almost all of them have stayed in the United States. VEC has made \$50,000 of capital improvements to its facility, paid \$5,000 in state and local taxes, helped 200 families across sugar-country get outside and enjoy the natural landscape in late winter and early spring, brought five new products to market, applied for and/or received three patents, created two jobs, and given one of those jobs to a person in our community who needed a second chance.

VEC has accomplished all of these things without paying an employee less than \$15 per hour. As the CEO of VEC, I consider it bad business to attempt to hire and retain an employee for less than a living wage. In today's economy, I consider \$15 per hour to be the minimum living wage. I think \$15 per hour is an appropriate minimum wage that is attainable for viable businesses like mine. I support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

Thank you for taking up this important matter.

Regards,

Kate Whelley McCabe
CEO, Vermont Evaporator Company

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