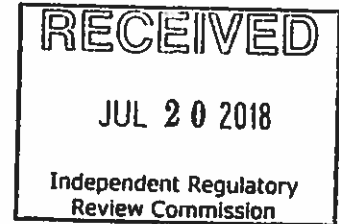


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Philadelphia Unemployment Project
112 N. Broad St. 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102



July 20, 2018

Bryan M. Smolock, Director, Bureau of Labor Law Compliance
651 Boas Street, Room 1301,
Harrisburg, PA 17121
bsmolock@pa.gov

Dear Mr. Smolock

I am writing on behalf of the Philadelphia Unemployment Project as a nonprofit employer that is strongly in support of the proposed changes to the overtime regulations by the Department of Labor and Industry.

We have watched as the recovery from the Great Recession has slowly expanded and been most concerned that wages have remained stagnant in spite of record lows in unemployment. Even with a tight labor market and massive corporate tax cuts companies have been much more likely to buy back shares of their stocks to the benefit of executives and investors than provide higher pay for workers. The Republican leadership in Harrisburg has refused to even allow a vote for over 10 years on a Pennsylvania minimum wage increase, leaving the state far behind all of our neighboring states on our minimum wage rate. If wages don't go up, even in such a tight labor market, it is unclear how people will be able to improve their economic prospects in the future.

We see the changes to the overtime regulations as one way to increase wages in our state. The private sector continues to be reluctant to raise wages for its employees, so it is appropriate that government come to the aid of struggling working families with regulations like those proposed by the Department of Labor and Industry.

We are a small non-profit and we are willing to live with these increases on overtime pay. We try to be a good employer and think the regulations make sense. We urge you to adopt and implement this proposal for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Dodds,
Director