

**Stephen Hoffman**

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**From:** Woodruff, Darrin <Darrin.Woodruff@metro.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** LI, SLMR-LLC  
**Subject:** [External] Minimum Wage

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To whom it may concern:

I oppose the changes to minimum wage as suggest because of the following reasons:

1. We are in a volatile economic environment without full understanding of how the general economy will correct for the trillions of dollars that the Trump and Biden Administrations have dumped into our economy in the name COVID. It would be illogical to think that a correction will not happen and when it does these preemptive legislative moves will likely cause a reduction of available jobs when they are most needed.
2. In the current economy even a fifteen dollar minimum wage is insignificant and would only benefit a very few. We have seen wages soar to all time highs which is likely related to the situation described in #1 above and it is likely that as the economy corrects that wages will be reduced in aggregate. It is irresponsible to adjust to a bubble in the economy that is fueled by tax dollars.
3. A minimum wage increase from \$7.25 to \$12.00 per hour represents a 65% increase which is to say that Pennsylvania would be 65% higher than many other states that follow the federal guidance. This makes those other states more attractive to new businesses looking to begin business operations. In short, Pennsylvania is best suited to follow the federal guidance.
4. Considering that the last increase was in 2009, the increase to \$12 per hour would represent a compounded growth rate of 4.3% which is completely out of line with wage increases realized since 2009 by the natural proclivities of the market. This, too, indicates that this legislation would have inflationary pressures.
5. According to the CPI growth, the monetary buying power of \$7.25 in 2009 represents the buying power of \$9.50 per hour in 2021. This indicates that a more nominal increase would be more reasonable.
6. Small businesses impacted by COVID shutdowns are just recovering and this timing only adds another hurdle that they must overcome on their road to full recovery. This would be exacerbated by a downturn in the economy.
7. It is no secret that there is a shortage of labor fueled by baby boomer retirements, pandemic fears of returning to work, and people saving money during the height of the pandemic. This is a time where we should allow the normal free market dynamics determine an appropriate wage level.
8. In the 80's and 90's we saw jobs evaporate in the USA and find their way into countries that offered lower labor costs. In recent years we have seen a small reversal of this trend. Establishing a government mandated wage floor only builds an incentive for business to seek sources of lower cost labor whether that be in another state or abroad. This will lead to less jobs and increased poverty.

I sincerely hope that our government will not further pursue this untimely and unreasonable proposal.