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February 20, 2014

RE: Minimum Wage Increase

To Our Most Honorable Representatives & Committee Members:

As a small business owner the raising of the minimum wage will add another burden to businesses especially small business owners. The government cannot continue to place these burdens on businesses because that will reduce the amount of small businesses that can survive, especially in this depressed economy. No matter, what studies and the numbers show, unless you are working in a small business no one can express how bad the economy is and in my 30+ years as a business owner in a family businesses that was established in 1932; I have never witnessed it so bad. The State of Connecticut lags behind and is at the bottom tier of economic recovery. Raising the minimum wage will further hinder the improvement of the U.S and State of Connecticut economy.

The plight of a small business owner is one that works hard, does whatever it takes to survive, reduces their income in order to keep their company going and tightens their belts personally so not to let valued employees go or suffer. We, the business owners, take the burden of taxation, health insurance, and insurmountable costs of doing business especially in a depressed economy. We, small business owners, cannot keep taking such a toll because this will be a recipe for disaster and cause the reduction of small businesses which still happens to be the back bone of the U.S economy. By raising the minimum wage, it will force businesses to reduce the amount of people that they employ especially at full time status so not to provide benefits yet reducing the labor force. Reducing jobs and the labor force is not the way for an economy to recover.

Please consider not raising the minimum wage in order to help the plight of the small business owner and help the economy of the State of Connecticut and the U.S.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel V. D'Aprile
President