

Kess, Quinn

From: Sen. Osten, Catherine
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Subject: FW: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

For the minimum wage increase

Catherine A. Osten
State Senator
19th District

-----Original Message-----

From: ben@nemtusa.com [mailto:ben@nemtusa.com]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Sen. Osten, Catherine
Subject: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

We are a small manufacturer and all our employees are paid well above the minimum wage, so this really does not have a direct impact on our business. So I am writing as a matter of principle not to be self serving.

Over the years we have watched as more jobs and more products are outsourced to low wage countries. Manufacturers are constantly moving jobs to low cost regions or exporting them completely. The effect of raising the minimum wage is not limited to the bottom tier of employees, it tends to raise the level of all wages.

What sense does it make, in a time of high unemployment to raise the cost of doing business in this state or this country. It will just further motivate companies to outsource more jobs and shift more employees to part time jobs.

This is 'feel good' legislation that makes the main problem worse, not better. We are in a global competition and you cannot legislate away the impact. Let the labor market function to establish wage levels. Companies like McDonalds and Walmart may not reduce the number of people they employ if the minimum wage rises, but businesses that manufacture things will. This state and this country need manufacturing jobs.

Sincerely,
BEN THOMAS, PRESIDENT
NEW ENGLAND MACHINE TOOLS
597 MIDDLE ST
BRISTOL CT 06010