



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Labor and Commerce
 committee name
 committee on HB29 AK Minimum Wage dated March 11th 2009
 bill/subject

See attached please.

Signed: *Shelby A. Hoff*
 Testifier

SELF
 Representing (Optional)

State NC 600 Box 153 COPPER CENTER
 Address

827-3923
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March 11th, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

In regards to HB 29 Alaska Minimum Wage now being assessed, I would like to go on record as being vehemently against.

Many employees, especially our young adults, have never been employed. We take these inexperienced people and teach them a trade. Most come to us with no skills, no desires, and no work ethics. We, as employers, must teach all this and keep our businesses running smoothly. This would include having another full time experienced employee on the payroll to work side by side with new hirees. We can't wait for business to be booming to train, therefore, we are forced to work at a loss. This process may go on for the full season but most employers hope for a 1-1 1/2 month period. Because these are most often entry level working jobs, turnover is high.

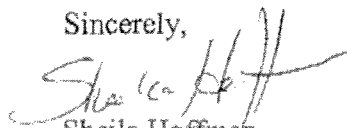
No one can learn all that is necessary in one summer so the teaching process continues into the second year, but by then, there is no guarantee they will be back so this process starts again and that first employee has improved their skill and now has the beginnings of something to offer their next employer. Experience is now marketable!

Postponing the date of enacting this bill is not a solution. This training and these jobs are greatly needed. I, as a business owner and employer, am not afraid to pay good wages, but cannot afford to pay that high of a wage. So, if you choose to do this, what can I do? #1-There will be no raises for any young part time people; #2-Less help hired; #3-Less hours of operation; #4-Close doors.

These options are very real. The increase costs of insurance and taxes will make operation next to impossible. It will put a stop to all business growth and improvements. Unlike the Federal Government, I can't increase prices and demand that the people pay. Business has been declining in rural Alaska for the last 5 years and there is no relief in sight. Along with the proposed increase in capital gains and other burdens put on small business this will crater us.

What we (small business) do is important and necessary. I have received notice that my training has allowed many to go out and compete in the professional world. That was training I paid for and am proud of. Please do not take that away from us.

Sincerely,



Sheila Hoffman

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