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November 30, 2018

Dear Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo,

The Greater Atlantic City Chamber has heard from many business members regarding the proposal to raise New Jersey's minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Just as many other business groups we are concerned about the impact that increasing the minimum wage will have on smaller businesses. Our major concern is that small businesses will be forced to reduce staff, hours and benefits. This proposed increase in their minimum wage has the potential to harm the same people we are trying to help.

Reputable organizations want to pay their employees a fair wage and many small businesses are paying what they can while working to keep their doors open. Public sector incentives for employees taking a minimum wage job should be considered.

Many jobs in South Jersey are in the service industry. It is important that this is considered in any discussion on minimum wage and that adjustment for seasonal employment and tipped positions are addressed. This issue is important to all businesses in our market place large and small.

As you know, the Chamber has been working with others to diversify our economy while seeking higher paying jobs. We are concerned that significant changes to the New Jersey minimum wage will result in an erosion of our existing small business. The best development program starts with a good retention effort.

The Chamber would welcome the opportunity to have a discussion on: a gradual phased-in increase of the minimum wage, a youth and training wage and other new innovative ideas resulting when public and private sector leaders work together on workforce development and job creation issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'James S. Kelly'.

President  
Greater Atlantic City Chamber