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To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: City of Shoreline Agenda Comments
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Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time: 03/28/2016 6:18 PM
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Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Lorn Richey
2. Shoreline
3. (O) Echo Lake
4. Lornrichey@hotmail.com
5. 03/28/2016
6. Minimum Wage
7. Dear Shoreline City Council
I am a Shoreline resident and am writing in support of raising the minimum wage in the City of Shoreline, for the following reasons:
A rising tide raises all boats –and this water metaphor means from the bottom up. One thing drives economic growth and that is consumer demand –and since a very large part of our demographic are near the bottom, that is where we should turn our attention in order to stimulate the economy. According to classical conservative economic theories there are three main reasons not to set or raise the minimum wage:
 1. It takes the profit away from the risk taking entrepreneur, who creates the jobs, because she cannot pass the cost onto the consumer because she will lose business. This would be true if an individual entrepreneur raised her employee’s wages and her competition did not. However, in this case, if all local businesses have to do it, they can pass the cost onto the consumer because their competition is under the same regulations that they are. The conservative economist, Frederick Hyack described this phenomenon in his book The Road to Serfdom.
 2. The second argument against is that the minimum wage hurts the unskilled and less desirable worker because entrepreneurs will lay them off first to protect their own profit margins. This theory has proven to be untrue in the vast majority of cases , because entrepreneurs only hire new employees when they absolutely have to, the vast majority of employees are essential. Even in the tiny minority of cases where unskilled workers are laid off, they are now buoyed by the rising tide of increased demand in the economy and when they find new employment they are hired back at the new higher wage.

3. The last argument against the livable minimum wage is that it applies to jobs in service sectors that are mainly meant for entry level high school kids-such as flipping burgers or sweeping floors. These jobs, it is said, are not meant to be careers. Says who?! The median age of a fast food worker is forty years old.

Not all of us can put ourselves through a computer programming education in order to eventually make ends meet.

Despite all the media coverage of the high paying tech-sector, most jobs will not be created in the high tech industries. UC-Davis Economist, Gregory Clark has observed that the future of the U.S. economy will very much resemble the medieval economy as far as job growth in terms of the types of jobs that people will be doing; gardening, food preparing, serving, cleaning, bricklaying, and carpentry.

Growing inequality is causing social disorder in the Northwest and throughout the world. A significant raising of the minimum wage is one small step toward addressing this issue and boosting the economy from the bottom up.

Please vote to increase the minimum wage.

Sincerely,

Lorn Richey, Shoreline resident

8. Support

Thank you,

City of Shoreline

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