

Chair & Committee members-

Ioka Farms, Inc. has been a family owned and operated farm since 1878.

We currently farm approximately 5000 acres in the Silverton hills.

Because of our location; some steep terrain and little water, we are somewhat limited to the variety of crops we can produce.

Being commodity based, we are price takers, not price makers, and are not able to pass along a higher cost of doing business to our customers.

We currently employ 33 people full time, year round. In the summer we hire up to 14 high school or college students to assist us with our harvest.

The seasonal employees we hire are often using the money they make working for us to help finance their college educations, which in the short term

would be great for them if minimum wage were to increase. However, for our 33 full time employees this would force us to look to for other ways to make

up for the \$250,000 increase to our budget, which could include staff reductions or benefit reductions. Collectively Oregon agriculture would be put at

a competitive disadvantage.

Thank you for your consideration.

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