

Testimony
Senate Commerce Committee
Jeff Glendening
SB 71
The Kansas Chamber
February 12, 2007

Thank you Madame Chair, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 71. My name is Jeff Glendening, and I am representing the over 10,000 member businesses of The Kansas Chamber.

The Kansas Chamber opposes the Kansas minimum wage because it hurts Kansas employees, employers and the Kansas economy. Although the intent of the minimum wage is to assist entry level and low-skilled workers, the end result will be harmful to them. These workers stand the most to lose – their jobs.

Dr. Joseph Sabia of the University of George commented in his May 2006 study that there is “evidence that minimum wage increases result in a significant decline in retail and small business employment.” He further concluded that “low-skilled employees will find themselves unable to escape adverse labor market consequences resulting from minimum wage increases.”

We believe in a market-driven approach to determining wages in Kansas. The free market has proven time and again the strongest, most stable and fair method of determining wages. A minimum wage set by government is not needed and should be repealed.

Proponents of the minimum will have you believe that the money for increased wages will appear magically as if it already exists in the current marketplace. Consumers, employees and employers will all pay the price – some with their jobs and some with their businesses.

This is a battle for the philosophical direction of our state. Do we espouse the socialist teachings of Karl Marx under which Europe has been buried, or the tradition of the free market and capitalism that have proved to be the able cornerstone of the strong and steady economy of the United States?

Thank you again for the opportunity to air the voice of Kansas job creators in support of repealing the Kansas minimum wage.