Dear [Senator/Delegate]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

**I write to urge you to consider a moderate, regional approach when you contemplate raising the minimum wage in the Commonwealth**. This is an issue that affects many business owners in our region and I hope you will carefully consider the negative impact this policy may have on our local businesses and employees.

Proposals to raise the Commonwealth’s minimum wage to $15 per hour regardless of regional differences would have a stifling effect on job growth and employment in our region.  The percentage of employees who are currently paid at or below the minimum wage is small, but businesses that already pay their employees above the current minimum wage will inevitably see their cost of labor increase as the labor market is made artificially more expensive.  The will lead toward increased automation in some sectors as well as higher prices for the goods and services we all consume.  We will lose business to surrounding states should this proposal pass and our local economy will stagnate.

**Please recognize the negative impact that this minimum wage increase would have on our region, and I hope you will consider an approach that addresses significant regional differences.**

Sincerely,

Your Name (First, Last)

Your Home Address

*The following Virginia Delegates and Senators are either conferees or key legislators for the minimum wage proposals still live in the legislative process. It is important to contact all members listed below to ensure that your message is received by those who will have the final say on minimum wage legislation. Please contact Terry Durkin at* *tdurkin@roanokechamber.org* *should you have any questions.*

**Senator John Edwards**

**District21@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7521**

**Delegate Jeion Ward**

**DelJWard@house.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-1092**

**Delegate Paul Krizek**

**DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-1044**

**Delegate Matt Fariss**

**DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-1059**

**Senator Scott Surovell**

**District36@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7536**

**Senator Richard Saslaw**

**District35@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7535**

**Senator Steve Newman**

**District23@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7523**

**Senator Emmett Hanger**

**District24@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7524**

**Senator Creigh Deeds**

**District25@senate.virginia.gov**

**(804) 698-7525**