

Letter from Larry Helminiak
SCBA Board Member and Government Affairs Chairperson

March 2019

To all members of SCBA:

The State of Maryland is considering raising the minimum wage to \$ 15.00 per hour.

When you read this I want you to imagine a grandfather clock. Notice that for every TICK there is a TOCK. The economy is like that. Whenever there is an increase in the minimum wage (the tick), the price of just about everything goes up (the tock).

There aren't many things that are good about growing older; but if there is one good thing, it's that you remember things that younger people did not experience. My father owned a corner grocery store in Canton. This was long before you had to be rich to live there. As a kid, I worked there, and remember the price of stuff.

Hershey Bar:	5 cents
Bag of potato chips:	5 cents
One year tuition at Calvert Hall:	\$200
Brand new 1950 Pontiac:	\$2,000
Ride on Baltimore Transit:	10 cents
Row home in Canton:	\$3,000
Newspaper:	5 cents
Quart of milk:	19 cents
One gallon of gas:	25 cents
Admission to a movie:	25 cents
A new home in Carroll County:	\$20,000

For workers, it gets worse. Some jobs, especially entry level jobs, are simply eliminated. You get the point I'm trying to make. Raising the minimum wage sounds good when politicians propose it; but before long, the increase in wages causes a comparable increase in everything we buy.

Now look at a map of the State of Maryland. Businesses with offices in Maryland will see a dramatic increase in the cost of being located here. Before long, businesses will move their offices to Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia, taking Maryland jobs with them.

Sincerely,

Larry

Larry Helminiak, SCBA Board Member and Government Affairs Chairperson