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office.

Will

4-16-96

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1996

Mr. John M. Doe

Title

Organization

Business Adr1

Business Adr2

Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:



Thank you for sharing your thoughts about my Administration's proposal to raise the minimum wage.

My Administration has worked hard to create high-paying jobs and to expand employment opportunities for all Americans. Since the beginning of 1993, our economy has generated more than 8 million jobs, the number of people unemployed has dropped by more than 15 percent, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation have hit a 25-year low. Ninety-three percent of the job growth has been in the private sector, and the majority of jobs created have been in higher-wage occupations.

✓ Many hardworking Americans, however, are still struggling to make ends meet. Too many people are working harder for the same or lower wages. The minimum wage has reached a 40-year low in terms of real buying power. That is why I have asked Congress to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, in two 45-cent stages. As it stands, the annual salary of a minimum wage worker is about \$8,500. Increasing the minimum wage would raise these salaries by about \$1,800, ~~or roughly~~ the amount an average family spends on groceries during a seven-month period.

Many empirical studies have shown that moderate increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment. Given that the current minimum wage is not a living wage, we must raise it to encourage work and responsibility over dependency and welfare. By raising the minimum wage, we can make it possible for more full-time workers to support their families and live in dignity.

As we work with Congress on this important issue, I appreciate knowing your views.

Sincerely,

(4/15/96)