

in over two years. Had we enacted this bill last year, which we should have done, we would have phased it in over a couple of years. It would have been in the same stages that the federal government allowed, that the federal government passed and that would have allowed for those employers to basically phase in that increase. We didn't do that so now we're here trying to catch up. I don't want to let ten years go by again or eight years, whatever it was, before we catch up again. It's a 90-cent increase. What does a 90-cent-an-hour increase do on an annualized basis? The annualized figure used is 2,080--40 hours a week times 52 weeks a year, 2,080. Okay, if you take 2,080 times 90 cents, you're looking at \$1,872. If you use the example of the Dairy Queen, you're talking about a business that's in, many cases, seasonal, anywhere from six to nine months. Cut it in half. Three-quarters is \$1,200, half is \$600. If you're talking about a half a million dollar business, it's \$600, \$1,200, times it by three employees, \$3,600. Is that going to be enough to make or break a mom and pop business? I say it isn't. I say it isn't. Many of these mom and pop businesses are businesses that folks run on the side in addition to having the regular job, especially the example of the Dairy Queen. One or both of those individuals are working full-time jobs. They do this on the side to make a little extra money to provide for their kids' college, to provide for a nest egg when they retire, absolutely, I don't have any problem with that. But should they pay a fair working wage to those individuals who come there to help them provide for that college education for their children, provide for that nest egg? Yeah, I think they should. And will the free enterprise system work? Absolutely. As a matter of fact, ladies and gentlemen, it will work so well that if you take a look at what the average wage is out there, it's over and above what the minimum wage, at least it is in the market where I'm at. People are advertising for these kinds of jobs well in excess of what not only the state minimum wage is, let alone the federal minimum wage. We're talking about these kids are being paid \$5.00 an hour for these same kinds of jobs. Now is it a little different situation in a small town? Sure it is. Sure it is. But these individuals' profits are the same and in some cases they're greater than somebody who has to...thank you, somebody who has to compete in the same kind of market that I represent. So it is apples and apples. But, if anything, what you're doing is you're giving an advantage to somebody who works in one of those little small town operations who does it as a side business and you're talking about a minuscule portion of the workplace. You're talking about