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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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July 18, 2019

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Room 211 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Room 217 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Speaker Vos,

I write to you today to urge you to raise the minimum wage in Wisconsin, which has not been raised in our state in a decade and remains unacceptably low at \$7.25 an hour. Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation to raise the minimum wage, which is only necessary because Wisconsin failed to act during former Governor Walker's tenure. Although the legislation passed today is not expected to even be considered in the United States Senate, I urge you to increase the minimum wage as most of our neighbors in the Midwest already have.

The fact is that working families cannot live on \$7.25 an hour. Not only does your inaction hurt working families, but it hurts our local businesses and state economy. Study after study shows that when people aren't forced to live pay check to pay check, they are able to spend money at local businesses and stimulate the local economy.

Governor Evers recently proposed a reasonable plan to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour by 2023 and thereafter index the minimum wage to inflation. Our neighbor states, including Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan, have all recognized the need to increase the minimum wage and have passed increases that work best for their states. Today I voted in favor of legislation to gradually increase the national minimum wage. Although the bill is not expected to be signed into law under the current administration, the bill sends a clear signal to states that the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is woefully inadequate and must be increased one way or another.

The current minimum wage of \$7.25 in Wisconsin an hour is a joke. Twenty-nine other states have acted to raise the minimum wage above the federal level. Since leaders in Wisconsin have failed to take action, the House of Representatives passed legislation today to pressure states to act. I once again urge you to work together with Governor Evers on a plan that will increase the minimum wage in Wisconsin and give working families a raise.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Tony Evers

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