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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

Millions of Americans are sick and tired of working longer hours for lower wages while almost half of all new income goes to the top one percent. The time is long overdue to raise the federal minimum wage, which is currently at the absurdly low level of \$7.25 an hour, to a living wage - \$15 an hour. People who work 40 hours a week should not be forced to live in poverty.

I am writing, therefore, to urge you to bring the Raise the Wage Act (S.150) up for full consideration on the Senate floor. This legislation, co-sponsored by 32 members in the Senate, would raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024 and index it to median wage growth thereafter.

As you know, the House Committee on Education and Labor favorably discharged the Raise the Wage Act, and a number of states have already enacted similar measures to quickly move to a \$15 hourly wage floor including Connecticut, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia.

Much of the business community is also in agreement that increasing their workers' wages is sound policy. Companies like Amazon and Disney have voluntarily increased worker pay to a \$15 minimum wage. Even the corporate leadership of Walmart, the largest private employer in the country, publicly acknowledged that the federal minimum wage is too low.

Workers in America have seen 40 years of wage stagnation. Roughly 40 percent of all Americans cannot afford a \$400 emergency. One in nine workers are paid wages that can leave them in poverty even though they work full time. The Raise the Wage Act would give more than 40 million low-wage workers a raise—more than 25 percent of the U.S. workforce.

I ask that you allow the Senate to take up the Raise the Wage Act to immediately begin improving the lives of working Americans across the country.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator