

Representative:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of New Mexico workers and small businesses, I urge you to **vote NO** on HB 110, the “Phased Minimum Wage Increase.” New Mexico is currently suffering one of the worst unemployment rates in the country, and small businesses across the state are struggling to keep their doors open. A minimum wage hike would be a stretch in the best of times. These are not those times. The economic recovery from the pandemic shutdown will take years, and we will certainly not be done with the recovery by the end of 2021. A minimum wage hike right now will only hamper that recovery and will likely drive more small businesses to close. Studies have shown that higher minimum wages drive less educated, less skilled, and younger workers out of the job market while encouraging the development of automation, meaning some of the groups hardest hit by the economic recession would have an even harder time getting back to work. (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackkelly/2019/07/10/the-unintended-consequences-of-the-15-minimum-wage/?sh=6111bacde4a7>)

To help New Mexico’s workers get back to work and to allow small businesses a better chance at surviving this pandemic, please vote no on HB 110.



Frank Pagurko III