



**PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY
OF CALIFORNIA**

State Central Committee

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April 2, 2015

Hon. Mark Leno
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Leno,

The Peace and Freedom Party of California supports SB 3, which will raise the minimum wage in California to \$13.00 an hour by 2017, with a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to be activated starting in 2019. There is no doubt that this bill will have a positive effect on the lives of California workers, nearly a quarter of whom live in poverty. Our state's poverty rate is the highest of any state, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. As a socialist and feminist party on the ballot in California we also take note of the fact that 6 out of 10 minimum wage workers are women.

Our support is qualified by the fact that \$13.00 an hour is nowhere near a living wage. There is no valid reason not to raise it a good deal more. Research, including studies by the UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, has shown that higher minimum wages reduce turnover, improve work performance and exert no negative effect on job availability, especially since minimum wage work is now the fastest growing sector of the job market. In fact the Peace and Freedom Party Platform has long called for doubling the minimum wage as well as a full COLA. We hope the Legislature finds a way to insure poor and working people a fairer wage in the very near future.

The Peace and Freedom Party supports SB 3 and urges its passage. We thank you and Senator Leyva for introducing this important legislation. If you would like to discuss our position on SB 3 further, please contact me at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or ctwebervoters@att.net, or our state chair, Debra Reiger, at 916-698-8131 (mobile) or debra.reiger@earthlink.net.

Yours truly,

C. T. Weber
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

cc: Hon. Connie M. Leyva
Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee
Hon. Tony Mendoza (Chair)
Hon. Jeff Stone (Vice Chair)
Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson
Hon. Holly J. Mitchell