

PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRES

November 17, 2016

Dear Representative,

After this year's election, one thing is clear: hard working Americans from both parties - and neither party - are sick and tired of watching their bank accounts dwindle while a tiny number of well-connected elites get richer. Both the primary and the general elections saw a wholesale rejection of establishment economics and the political system that supports it.

It is imperative that lawmakers like you fully grasp exactly how out of balance and unstable the country has become and that you act immediately to fix it. For too long, wealthy Americans have been engaged in a game of economic Jenga, where players - thinking only of winning themselves - pulled from the bottom and added to the top. If we don't fix it, eventually that tower is going to fall.

President-elect Trump campaigned on a promise to cut a better deal for working Americans. That deal is long overdue. While many of the negotiations around the appropriate distribution of power and money in this country will take time to sort out, one stabilizing policy can be implemented immediately with bipartisan support.

We ask that within the first 100 days of the new Administration, members of the House and Senate vote to raise and index the federal minimum wage. The federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25 an hour, which translates into around \$15,000. That is not only unconscionable, it is horrible for business. An economy that is 70% consumer demand, requires customers with money to spend. Raising the minimum wage is the right moral choice, it is the right economic choice and it enjoys enormous support from Americans across the political spectrum.

The Patriotic Millionaires believe the wage floor should over time reach \$15 an hour, other lawmakers have suggested that \$12 an hour. President Elect Donald Trump has said publicly that he would support a figure of \$10 an hour. Somewhere in that range, members of both parties can reach an agreement, something that would bring a much needed sense of relief to our citizens, including a reassurance that perhaps our lawmakers actually are capable of governing.

We are long past the moment where we can wait for states to act on their own. The federal government must step in. Americans deserve and must have the assurance - codified into law - that if they are working full time, they will be able to afford their basic needs, regardless of what state or city they live in. Lawmakers have an obligation during these tumultuous times to act.

Thank you,
The Patriotic Millionaires