

Dear Council Members,

8/5/24

The Boulder Self Sufficiency Wage Coalition appreciated that representatives from EFFA and our coalition were added to the working groups, along with representatives of other interests. We want to recognize the commitment, engagement, and hard work of the staff from the different cities. This allowed us to contribute feedback on proposals from contractors to do the research. We did not feel an economic analysis of raising the minimum wage was necessary due to the body of research and experience both in Colorado and nationally. We are hopeful that the city staff of each municipality will include some of these other studies and analysis done in Colorado and other parts of the country in the study packet.

We valued the opportunity to provide input on the survey questions for the community survey, however we felt that there were questions that were confusing and where feedback from community voices was not incorporated. Some cities had equal numbers of community feedback sessions for business and community, (Boulder, Louisville and Lafayette) while some had 3 times as many feedback sessions for business than community, (Longmont).

As the consultants produced a draft of the report, we had the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on it, which was important. We are disappointed that the input did not offer an opportunity for the economists and policy analysts that are part of the Boulder County Self-Sufficiency Wage coalition to meet with the consultants directly to discuss the feedback. While we have not seen the final report, we noticed that the research cited was not balanced with economists with different analyses of the impact of raising the wage. Again, if that balance was not achieved in the final report, we hope the city staff will provide some of the other analysis that the Boulder County Self-Sufficiency wage cited in its comments to the draft report.

We look forward to seeing the final report and contents of the study session packets provided to the council members. Community members, workers and faith leaders that are part of our coalition will continue to share our perspective on community needs and analysis on the needed wage as the cities move forward in consideration of enacting meaningful minimum wage increases. Below is a list of organizations that make up our coalition.

Thank you,

Ian Coggins, Campaign Manager for the Boulder County Self-Sufficiency Wage Coalition

*ACLU Colorado, American Federation of Teachers Colorado, Alphabet Workers Union, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Boulder Area Labor Council, Boulder County Employees Union, Boulder County Young Democrats, Boulder Democratic Socialists of America, Boulder Food Rescue, Boulder Progressives, Colorado AFL-CIO, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Independent Drivers United, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, Colorado Jobs with Justice, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, CU Young Democratic Socialists of America, CWA District 7, CWA 7799, Defenders Union of Colorado, East County Housing Opportunity Coalition, El Comite de Longmont, Food Security Network of Boulder County, League of Women Voters Boulder County, Longmont Leads with Love, The Longmont Unitarian Universalist Presence, NAACP Boulder County, the National Employment Law Project, New Era Colorado, Progress Now Colorado, SEIU Local 105, Starbucks Workers United, Together Colorado, Towards Justice, UFCW Local 7, UC Health Workers United, United Campus Workers of Colorado, Unite Here Local 23, Colorado Working Families Party*