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Via email: (wagepolicy@panynj.gov)

Mr. Kevin O'Toole
Chairman
Board of Commissioners
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman O'Toole:

On behalf of our member companies that provide more than 1 million jobs in the state and make the New Jersey Business & Industry Association the largest statewide business association in the country, I am writing to respectfully oppose the Port Authority's proposal to increase the minimum wage at its airports.

Increasing the minimum wage will have a major impact on the operating costs of these important transportation facilities. The proposed \$19-an-hour wage would be the highest in the nation, regardless of region or industry. Minimum wage increases also produce a ripple effect that also raise wages for those who are higher up on the salary scale.

The additional costs of such a high minimum wage will ultimately be borne by businesses and consumers who already face some of the highest costs in the nation. In fact, Liberty International Airport in Newark is already the most expensive airport in the country, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Additionally, this policy could have a negative impact on the State's overall economy. Transportation is a crucial element for New Jersey's economic competitiveness. More than doubling the minimum wage for airport workers can only increase the transportation cost businesses must absorb.

In sum, such a large increase in salaries and wages is inconsistent with the efficient and effective management of the transportation facilities under the Port Authority's jurisdiction. On behalf of our member companies, I respectfully request that you do not pursue a policy of increasing the minimum wage to \$19 per hour.

Thank you for your consideration.



Michael Wallace
Vice President