

# HE SAID WHAT??????????

“Slackers” comment outrageous say Minimum Wage supporters – demand an apology on behalf of Montana workers.

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(Missoula) Calling comments by lobbyist Brad Griffin “outrageous and offensive,” Raise Montana treasurer and worker advocate Jacquie Helt today called for “an apology from Mr. Griffin for insulting everyone who works or ever worked at the minimum wage.”

In a published report that ran in most Montana newspapers today, Griffin, the lobbyist for the Montana Retail Association and the Montana Restaurant Association referred to those who would stand to benefit from passage of I-151 as “slackers.”

“For Mr. Griffin to criticize the hard working people trying to make ends meet is really low,” said Helt, who represents hotel and restaurant workers as the director of UNITE HERE! Local 427 in Missoula.

“I know what it is like to try and raise a family on the minimum wage and it isn’t easy,” Helt said. “54% of minimum wage workers are the main breadwinner in their household and to make ends meet requires that person to be anything but a “slacker,” Helt continued.

Helt said she found it particularly troubling that Mr. Griffin would personally ridicule the very employees who provide much of the workforce to the industry Griffin purports to represent – the restaurant industry. “This provides an unfortunate glimpse into Mr. Griffin’s view of the workers who makeup the backbone of the service industry, and I think it is both outrageous and offensive.”

Griffin’s entire quote read this way in the Associated Press Article: “With this, even the slackers are getting an annual bump.”

“Montana workers deserve a raise and, now, an apology,” said Helt.

I-151 would raise the minimum wage in Montana by \$1.00 to \$6.15 an hour and provide for an annual cost of living adjustment based on a commonly used, independent gauge of inflation.

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