



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Greece Chamber of Commerce Position Statement New York State Increase in Minimum Wage for Fast Food Workers**

Greece, NY, August 19, 2015 –The Greece Chamber of Commerce today made the following announcement:

“The Greece Chamber of Commerce has serious concerns regarding the State of New York’s recent action to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2021 for fast food industry workers (a 71% increase in the current minimum wage of \$8.75 an hour), which we see as having a potentially negative impact on businesses, especially the many small businesses in our membership region-wide. We believe this unfairly attacks those members who are small business franchise owners, makes it harder than ever for local restaurants outside of the fast food industry to compete and survive, and opens the door to raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour in other industries as well.

“It’s important to note that New York State is still implementing its most recent minimum wage increase, phased in over three years, which brings the minimum wage for all employees to \$9.00 an hour by January of 2016 – up from \$8.00 an hour in 2014 and \$8.75 in 2015 – and already creates a structural imbalance and burden for all employers, who will likely need to adjust employee wages at all levels in order to maintain the integrity of various compensation levels tied to qualifications and levels of responsibilities. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

“The increased cost to employers represented by both recent and proposed New York State minimum wage increases, especially coupled with the increased cost to both employers and employees for health care coverage in 2016, will likely translate to either a reduction in the number of jobs a business is able to afford and/or a reduction in hours and benefits offered to employees, ironically resulting in fewer jobs, increased unemployment, and less prosperity for residents of our community at the very moment that we are trying to grow our local and state economies.”

Sarah E. Lentini  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Greece Chamber of Commerce  
August 19, 2015

#### **Recent CNN Report on New York State’s Minimum Wage Increase**

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/07/30/smallbusiness/new-york-minimum-wage-increase/index.html>

#### **Business Council of New York State Press Release on New York State Minimum Wage Increase**

<http://www.bcnys.org/whatsnew/2015/072215-council-criticizes-fast-food-wage-board-recommendations.html>

#### **Summary of Manhattan Institute Report on Projected Impacts of Federal \$15 an hour Minimum Wage**

<http://capitalbusinessblog.bcnys.org/index.php/2015/08/brief-highlights-impact-of-15-minimum-wage/>



*photo by: John Retallack*

Sarah E. Lentini  
Greece Chamber of Commerce President and CEO

*photo of Sarah Lentini courtesy of John Retallack, Retallack Photography*

Sarah E. Lentini  
Greece Chamber President & CEO