January 10, 2007

I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, to increase our nation's minimum wage. It has been nearly a decade since this standard has been updated and I am pleased that we are here today to give many hard-working men and women a much-needed raise.

I am concerned, however, that the bill in its current form may adversely impact our nation's small businesses, which are the backbone of our robust economy. I am also disappointed that my Republican colleagues and I will not have an opportunity to strengthen this bill by including provisions to help reduce any potential unintended consequences that raising the minimum wage may have on employers.

For that reason, I intend to support the Republican Motion to Recommit so that we can put more money in the pockets of hard working Americans while protecting small businesses.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.