



September 23, 2005

Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Terri Cole
PO Box 25100
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Dear Ms. Cole:

Our community faces an important decision in the upcoming election. Not only will we select a new mayor and five city councilors, but we will also vote on several ballot initiatives, including the minimum wage issue.

As the only mayoral candidate supporting the proposed Albuquerque minimum wage increase, I am writing to offer the Chamber of Commerce the opportunity to debate, in a public forum, whether Albuquerque should raise our minimum wage.

Rather than a replay of 2002, when the Chamber opposed the Clean Indoor Air Ordinance to ban smoking in restaurants, and of 2003, when it helped fund Citizens for Greater Albuquerque, which ran the most negative and deceptive campaign in city history, let's talk openly about our positions and about the facts.

It is certainly the Chamber's right to oppose the minimum wage. However, the Chamber should not try to sidetrack Albuquerque voters with scare tactics.

Given my experience doing labor market research at the U.S. Department of Labor and the North American Commission on Labor Cooperation, I support this wage increase on its merits and I also know from years of research that this issue is too important not to be discussed openly.

I hope, in the spirit of open democracy, the Chamber will agree to a debate on raising our minimum wage. Please notify me of your decision by noon on Tuesday, September 27, so we can schedule a timely forum before the election. Let's let the public decide this issue, based on the facts, not on scare tactics and misinformation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Griego". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City Councilor Eric Griego