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FED MINIMUM WAGE "A TERRIBLE IDEA," WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR SAYS

White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow on Thursday said he opposes any deal that would raise the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a wage floor that is exceeded by laws in many states.

"My view is that a federal minimum wage is a terrible idea, and will damage, in particular, small businesses," Kudlow, the National Economic Council director, said during a Washington Post forum. "We need to cut corporate taxes instead."

Since 2009, the federal minimum wage has been \$7.25 an hour, and Congress has not reached agreement on raising it.

Kudlow said he opposes a federal minimum wage because he views it as a one-size-fits all approach to a "very varied economy." He also said that he opposes minimum wages at the state and local level.

The \$11 an hour Massachusetts minimum wage is set to rise to \$15 an hour over five years under a law signed this summer by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker. The wage hike was included in a bill after interest groups successfully initiated ballot drives seeking a minimum wage hike and a paid family and medical leave program, which Baker also agreed to.

- Chris Triunfo/SHNS

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