***This sample letter to the editor requires customization. Edit the bold, italicized text below with your own personal experience, and remove this paragraph, before sending to your local newspaper. Also include your contact information. Many newspapers will only print a letter to the editor after calling the author to verify his or her identity and address. Newspapers don’t give out your contact info or address, but they will usually include your name and city if your letter is published.***

Dear [Newspaper Name] Editor,

Working people in our state’s lowest paying industries have been fighting for a $15 per hour minimum wage for years. The need for a living wage is more urgent than ever with inflation and the rising cost of housing.] In North Carolina, a single parent would have to work an impossible 134 hours per week at the current minimum wage of $7.25 per hour in order to afford basic living expenses. That’s simply not right – and it’s not what working people deserve.

***This paragraph can be customized to talk about the need to raise the minimum wage and/or tell your story. Facts and stories help tell our future leaders why we urgently need a living wage and shows others that they’re not alone. Some prompts are below:***

* ***Raising the minimum wage means making sure all working people have financial security. But it would have a particularly positive impact on Black and Latinx communities, which are overrepresented in low-wage industries. Raising the wage means a more economically and racially just North Carolina.***
* ***There have been more than a dozen  attempts by state legislators to raise the state minimum wage in recent years. None of the proposed bills were ever brought to a vote. That’s unacceptable – our elected leaders need to take real action to make sure all working families are able to make ends meet.***
* ***About 1.3 million North Carolinians would benefit from raising the minimum wage. If we had a $15 per hour minimum wage, I would be able to…***
* ***A Data for Progress poll from earlier this year showed that eight out of every ten adults support raising the minimum wage. I support a livable wage for all working people because…***

Working people drive our economy, and businesses need them. A living wage shouldn’t be reserved for privileged people who lucked into good jobs. Every person who works deserves to make enough money to pay bills, save for emergencies, and enjoy life.

Sincerely,

[Your Name, City, Contact information]