

Dear Chair Holvey:

I am glad to see that you have continued yesterday's hearing to give committee members a chance to ask questions. I hope that the committee will also open the record for a few days to give others a chance to testify. If the record is opened, I would like to place the record:

Oregonian story about Oregon workers being told they have to come back to work or lose their unemployment benefits. It seems to me that the Employment Department should be questioned closely on why it cannot or should not expand its current list of 5 or 6 exceptions to its disqualification rule to address the Covid situation.

Time Magazine story about how other states have adjusted their requirements to avoid forcing workers to choose between their safety and that of their families, and sometimes their jobs, and losing unemployment benefits.

Oregon business lobby presentation to House Judiciary Committee earlier this week asking a raft of new liability protections, many of which would make it less risky for them to risk their employees' health while protecting their access to government bailouts.

I'm a retired land use lawyer and a former employer of people whose lives and health mattered deeply to me.

Respectfully,

Al Johnson

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