

Submitter: Dan Soeby
On Behalf Of: Teamsters Local 206
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Dan Soeby, and I am writing on behalf of the rank and file members of Teamsters Local 206.

I strongly encourage your support of SB 916, which I believe is an important step forward in addressing fairness to workers in the current labor climate. This bill represents a critical opportunity for Oregon to make meaningful progress in the area of valuing the workers who are the backbone of our society.

I have witnessed firsthand, most recently with the Bigfoot Beverage workers' strike, how serious a decision it is for workers to consider withholding their labor in defense of fair wages, safer working conditions and equitable compensation. This is a decision that forces workers to weigh the risks of fighting for fairness against feeding and sheltering their families and maintaining medical insurance coverage on a glaringly unlevel playing field. Not all employers bargain in good faith.

As a native Oregonian, SB 916 seems to me a common-sense measure that ensures workers can stand up for their rights, without their families being penalized for those workers exercising their fundamental freedoms. This is an opportunity for our state to lead by example; it aligns Oregon's values of fairness, sustainability and equity with fair labor practices and more stable, productive workplaces, which could actually result in avoiding strikes. I feel that this bill will create a better labor environment for the citizens of Oregon.

I urge the committee to stand with the citizens whose labor and toil make our daily lives possible. Vote in favor of SB 916 and work toward its swift passage, allowing workers to fight for better terms and conditions that will benefit employers, employees, the economy and the state.