



Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Senator Taylor, Representative Grayber, Representative Bowman, Senator Campos, Senator Manning Jr

Dear Members of the Committee,

We write today in opposition to SB916 Relating to unemployment insurance benefits for employees unemployed due to a labor dispute; creating new provisions; amending ORS 657.176 and 657.200 and section 4, chapter 180, Oregon Laws 2023; repealing section 5, chapter 43, Oregon Laws 2021; and declaring an emergency.

SB 916 will have the effect of making Oregon's expensive unemployment insurance taxes even more expensive as all small businesses in Oregon will be required to pay "strike benefits" for striking workers far removed from their individual businesses. It is a cost shift of labor disputes squarely on the back of Main Street businesses. It would contradict the purpose of the unemployment insurance system - to sustain employees when they lose their wages through no fault of their own. SB 916 would force thousands of small employers to subsidize labor disputes as their own payroll tax burden would increase in order to support the increased strain on the unemployment insurance fund.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 916 and ask for your consideration in support of our Small Business owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia M. Bermes, MA, IOM

CEO Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce