

Submitter: Josh McCabe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Good morning. I have been made aware of a bill that is designed to give striking workers access to unemployment benefit while on strike. Simply stated, the business climate in Oregon can't possibly sustain the burden of this of legislative effort. Oregon's unemployment insurance system is designed to support workers who lose their jobs involuntarily. It was never meant to incentivize workers to walk off the job. As a matter of fact the legislature made it a point to ensure that legislators who "walk off the job" are made ineligible to run for re-election, so why would workers who strike be allowed access to benefits they don't deserve. Expanding benefits to striking workers and union members would not only increase costs for employers but everyone else too. In fact, businesses, entrepreneurs, taxpayers and families will simply pack up and leave Oregon in order to achieve their goals for life and happiness. Losing business in Oregon makes it harder for people who want to work to find employment. We have already seen a decline in Oregon's population due to a combination of factors including reduced natural growth and increase out migration. As we have already seen, people are leaving the state to seek opportunities in states that have lower taxes, more economic prosperity, and more freedom overall.