

Submitter: David Larecy
On Behalf Of: Con-Vey
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Dear Members of Committee on Labor and Business,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the testimony of small business owners in rural Oregon. We oppose SB916 that would allow workers that are striking to receive State Unemployment Benefits. This bill is obviously presented by unions as supporting those that are striking, but lets talk about the truth. This bill gives labor unions more power over small businesses. This allows them to drag out strikes to put pressure on businesses. The unions should be using their strike funds if it is that important to them. If you think this is for any other reason but to give labor unions more power, you are not looking at the facts.

Labor unions do not care about local communities and the lasting effects on businesses. They do not live in our communities and they do not spend their dollars in rural Oregon.

As a small business with Bargaining unit employees, we understand that unions are "Big Business" and they try to get that power not for the employees, but for the Union its self - In our case an International that is not based in Oregon.

This Bill undermines the purpose of Unemployment Insurance that was meant for involuntary job loss or lay-offs not for those that choose to stop working due to a strike. This is a voluntary action that they have a right to do, but it is not businesses responsibility to pay for those that strike against us, or other businesses. Paying into unemployment insurance that can then be used against companies to drag out negotiations and strikes is a slap in the face of small businesses. I think it is telling that the support I see is from Unions and Striking nurses. I feel for the striking nurses but I also know that there are jobs available for them and it is not my responsibility to pay for them not to work. That is a decision they have to make and support on their own.

This Bill will drive small and large businesses from Oregon. Please support small business that are bringing strong, good paying jobs to rural Oregon and do not support this crazy bill that will harm hard working people and companies like ours.