Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

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May 1, 2025

House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oppose Senate Bill 916 A

Chair Grayber, Co-Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes Senate Bill 916 A. While we support fair employment policies, we are deeply concerned about the unintended consequences of this bill, which would place significant financial and operational burdens on local governments like ours.

Since unemployment insurance is funded through employer contributions, the expansion of eligibility proposed in SB 916 A would significantly increase costs for Clatsop County. With 130 represented employees, and unemployment benefits ranging from a minimum of $196 to a maximum of $836 per week, the County could face additional costs of $25,000 to $100,000 per week depending on the type and number of affected positions. The financial impact may force the County to reduce services and service levels valued by our community.

Beyond the financial strain, SB 916 A also raises concerns regarding labor negotiations. By providing expanded unemployment benefits during labor disputes, the bill could disrupt the balance of collective bargaining, extending disputes and making it more difficult to reach fair and timely agreements. This shift would weaken the County's ability to negotiate in good faith and could ultimately disrupt essential services that our residents rely on.

We urge the Committee to carefully weigh the unintended consequences of SB 916 A on local governments and the communities we serve and to vote "No" on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala, Chair
District 1

Anthony Huacuja, Commissioner
District 2

Pamela Wev, Commissioner
District 3

Courtney Bangs, Vice Chair
District 4

Lianne Thompson, Commissioner
District 5