



JOINT COUNCIL OF TEAMSTERS NO. 37

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

February 6th, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Attention: Chair Senator Kathleen Taylor
Re: Senate Bill 916

Dear Chair, Taylor and Committee Members,

This letter is to encourage your support for Senate Bill 916.

My name is Steve Konopa, and I am the principal officer of Teamsters Local 305 in Northeast Portland. I am also the statewide Legislative Director for the Teamsters Joint Council 37. I have been a life-long advocate for working people in Oregon, specifically union members that work under a collective-bargaining agreement.

Senate Bill 916 was initiated by Oregon AFL-CIO on behalf of all working Oregonians. This legislation (in some form) has been introduced in other states such as Washington, our neighbor to the north.

The goal here in Oregon, for us Teamsters, is simple. Protect and represent working people who deserve good family wages and benefits. Unless an employer in negotiations becomes greedy, with takeaways and after all the means of bargaining have been exhausted, only then is it necessary to strike. An employer would think twice in pushing a union that far if they knew the repercussions to them would be that the workers could be entitled to U/I benefits for going out on a strike. It would level the playing field so to speak. And it would be a deterrent for both parties to negotiate a fair and equitable labor agreement.

Please consider supporting Senate Bill 916. We are not trying to hinder or dictate any company's ability to operate their business. This is not our goal here. We only ask that companies be held accountable and transparent, for bargaining in good faith for the well-being of the workers that make them profitable. Every employee deserves the right to work in an environment free of worry and unnecessary stress and anxiety, knowing the expectations of their employment. The Teamsters in Oregon support Senate Bill 916.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter before you.

Sincerely,

Steve Konopa

Legislative Director / Teamsters Joint Council 37



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