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RE: Opposition to SB 916.UI for striking workers

SB Public Provides that an individual otherwise eligible for unemployment
916 Hearing unemployment is due to a labor dispute in active progress at the
individual's place of employment.

Sirs,

I oppose the Oregon Senate Bill 916 that would allow workers to receive **unemployment benefits** during a **labor dispute (strike or lockout)**. Below are two **reasonable** arguments against it:

1. Undermines the Purpose of Unemployment Insurance (UI)

- Unemployment benefits are meant for **involuntary** job loss, such as layoffs, not for those who choose to stop working due to a strike.
- A labor dispute is a **voluntary** decision by workers (or a strategic move by a union), unlike economic downturns or company closures.
- Allowing benefits for striking workers **blurs the line between true unemployment and labor activism**, potentially setting a precedent for further expansions of UI eligibility beyond its intended purpose.

2. Increases the Financial Burden on Businesses and the State UI Fund

- UI benefits are funded through **employer payroll taxes**, meaning **businesses will bear the cost** of financing worker strikes.
- Oregon's UI trust fund is meant to support **laid-off workers**—allowing striking workers to collect benefits could **drain resources** and require **higher employer taxes** to replenish the fund.
- This could **disincentivize business investment in Oregon**, as companies may see it as **an increased cost of doing business** in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Coury'.

Charles C Coury
President
9Wood, Inc.