

Submitter: Robert Sowdon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business:

SB 916 crosses the line of the purpose of the unemployment insurance (UI) system which is to provide temporary financial assistance to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. SB 916 seeks to extend these benefits to individuals who have voluntarily chosen to strike, thereby contradicting the intent of the UI program. Let us not set a precedent that would solely affect all businesses in the State! They choose to strike which is not unemployment but a decision to walk out of a job.

Oregon employers are responsible for funding the UI system through payroll taxes. Introducing benefits for striking workers would increase claims against the UI fund, necessitating higher payroll taxes to maintain its solvency. This financial burden would disproportionately affect small businesses, many of which operate on narrow margins and are already contending with economic challenges.

I oppose this bill as a retired business owner!

Thank you,

Bob Sowdon