

Submitter: Heather Harter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

On behalf of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce and the hundreds of small businesses we represent, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 916.

SB 916 would fundamentally alter Oregon's unemployment insurance system by allowing striking workers to receive unemployment benefits. This proposal would not only contradict the core purpose of unemployment insurance—supporting employees who lose their jobs through no fault of their own—but would also place an undue financial burden on Oregon's small businesses.

Under this bill, businesses across Oregon would be required to subsidize labor disputes they have no involvement in, further increasing the already high cost of unemployment insurance taxes. Small businesses, the backbone of our economy, would bear the cost of strike benefits, forcing them to shoulder an unfair share of labor disputes far beyond their own workplaces.

Oregon already has one of the most expensive unemployment insurance systems in the country. Adding additional financial strain to this system will only create more cost burdens on employers, making it even harder for small businesses to grow, hire, and thrive in our communities.

For these reasons, the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce urges you to oppose SB 916. We ask that you prioritize policies that support small businesses and job creation rather than measures that increase the financial strain on employers who play no role in labor disputes.

Thank you for your time and consideration