



City of Klamath Falls—Administration
500 Klamath Avenue—PO Box 237, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

February 12, 2025

Senator Diane Linthicum
Oregon Senate
District 28
900 Court Street, Office S-305
Salem OR, 97301

Dear Senator Linthicum,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **SB 916**, which would allow striking workers to collect unemployment benefits. Oregon's unemployment insurance system is designed to support workers who **lose their jobs involuntarily**, not those who choose to walk off the job. Expanding benefits to striking workers would **place an unnecessary burden on employers, strain the state's unemployment fund, and make Oregon less attractive for business investment.**

Only **New York and New Jersey** allow unemployment benefits for striking workers—coincidentally, the only states ranked worse than Oregon in CNBC's **2024 America's Top States for Business** report. Oregon already has the **third-highest employer-paid unemployment tax** in the nation. Forcing businesses to foot the bill for strikes would drive costs even higher, ultimately hurting both workers and job creators.

Additionally, state agencies must **reimburse unemployment benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis**, reducing the buying power of taxpayer dollars that should be used for essential public services.

I urge you to **oppose SB 916** and protect Oregon's economic future. Please vote NO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Teichert", written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Teichert
City Manager
City of Klamath Falls