

Jennifer Coleman

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Dear Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 622, which I believe is a crucial step toward aligning the Oregon Unemployment Insurance with Federal Law. It creates a fundamental fairness for Oregon Employers that use the H2A employment option. As a business owner in Oregon, I fully understand the positive impact this bill will have on our business, and I urge you to continue your advocacy for its passage.

Senate Bill 622 would exempt Oregon H2A employers from paying unemployment insurance taxes for workers who cannot collect unemployment benefits. H2A workers are employee that are contracted from outside the United States. They receive a work VISA from the federal government for a specific amount of time with specific jobs attached to the VISA at the request of an employer. At the conclusion of the contact guest workers are sent back to their home of origin. Thus, they are not eligible for unemployment benefits since they are no longer in the United States.

Oregon's business expenses are already among the highest in the nation. Mandating employers to pay unemployment insurance taxes on workers who are ineligible for benefits is unfair and adds a financial burden on businesses. It is crucial that we take proactive steps to address the issues that Senate Bill 622 aims to resolve. By passing this bill, Oregon unemployment insurance administration would align with federal law, which recognize that H2A workers are exempt from FUTA and employers should not be unfairly taxed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I hope you will continue your support for Senate Bill 622, and I look forward to seeing the positive changes it will bring to our state. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coleman