



To: Chair Grayber and Members of the House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Nellie deVries, BOMA

Date: April 30, 2025

Re: Please Oppose SB 916A

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The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Oregon is a commercial real estate organization representing over 40 million square feet of commercial real estate in Oregon.

While BOMA appreciates the need to protect our workers and their families, it has concerns with SB 916A regarding how this affects employers and employees.

Unfortunately, SB 916A will have the unintended consequence of limiting negotiations between employers and employees by lowering the incentives for employees to actively negotiate, creating a potentially an even worse stale mate.

Further, SB 916A could impact the health of the unemployment trust fund is a longstanding social compact between businesses and workers. Employers, not employees, pay into Oregon's UI fund, which is used to support workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. While Oregon's unemployment trust fund is one of the healthiest in the nation, using the fund for additional reasons, such as striking workers, could jeopardize the funds and the intent of the creation of the fund.

Oregon already has a reputation for being unfriendly to business. In the past, labor unions understood that for their members to thrive, the businesses that employed them must also thrive. We need to continue helping businesses support their employees through healthy negotiations that require both parties to come to the table and actively participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and BOMA again urges you to look deeper into a more holistic solution.