



April 30, 2025

Re: Support for SB 916

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the House Labor and Workplace Standards Committee:

My name is Hayley Watson, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

The **Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC)** is a statewide umbrella organization comprised of 31 member unions, representing tens of thousands of Union skilled trades workers in a wide array of crafts. OSBCTC's affiliates are leaders in the nation - establishing apprenticeship programs that continue to advance quality work and high performing trades workers. Together, we work for local jobs that provide family-sustaining wages, ample hours, and safe working conditions.

I am writing today in support of SB 916 which would repeal the law blocking unemployment benefits to workers on strike. This bill would help ensure that workers are able to stay afloat while fighting for a fair contract.

Strikes are never taken lightly. If you ask workers about going on strike, many would say that their hands were forced by employers who refused to negotiate in good faith, rolled back benefits, or did not address safety concerns.

Striking workers and their families should not be pushed into poverty for exercising their legally protected right to strike. This policy helps level the playing field, helps put money back into the local economy during a labor dispute, and helps ensure negotiations happen sooner rather than later.

This policy will come down to a value decision on whether workers deserve the social safety net benefits in place. We strongly encourage your support for SB916 and Oregon's workers. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Executive Secretary: Robert Camarillo

Political & Special Projects Coordinator: Hayley Watson

Affiliated Unions

1. Boilermakers Local 242	17. OR & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
2. Bricklayers Local 1	18. Floor Coverers Local 1236
3. Cement Masons Local 555	19. Office & Professional Employees Local 11
4. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36	20. Operating Engineers Local 701
5. Drywall Finishers Local 101	21. Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 10
6. IBEW Local 48	22. Painters District Council No. 5
7. IBEW Local 112	23. Plasterers Local 82
8. IBEW Local 280	24. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290
9. IBEW Local 659	25. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
10. IBEW Local 932	26. Roofers Local 49
11. Elevator Constructors Local 23	27. Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
12. Glaziers Local 740	28. Sheet Metal Workers Local 55
13. Ironworkers Local 29	29. Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669
14. Ironworkers Shop Local 516	30. Teamsters Local 162
15. Ironworkers District Council	31. Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37
16. Laborers Local 737	

Regional Councils:

- Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council
- Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
- Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council
- Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council
- Salem Building and Construction Trades Council
- Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council