



May 10, 2021

Senate Labor and Business Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Riley, Vice Chair Hansell and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce and our 1,650 business members throughout Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of support for HB 3389: Relating to Unemployment Insurance.

The Chamber and our membership are fully supportive of HB 3389 as it makes several meaningful adjustments to Oregon's unemployment insurance system. Since the pandemic began, employers across the state have been hard hit from dramatic losses of revenue to the uncertainty of whether they will be open or closed the following week. HB 3389 is a thoughtful approach to address the "rate shock" experienced by employers across the state on their 2021 Employment Department tax statements, specifically their unemployment insurance liability.

Among the important changes contemplated in HB 3389:

- Provides that an employers' experience rating for 2020 will also be used for 2022, 2023, and 2024 – thereby eliminating the effects of the pandemic from being incorporated into an employer's experience rating.
- Allows employers to defer payments to June 30, 2022 of up to 1/3 of taxes owed if an employer's tax rate increased by more than 0.5%.
- Reduces fund adequacy requirement used to determine rate schedules.

We especially appreciate the bipartisan group of legislators that came together to address this problem and work collaboratively on a solution. Thank you for offering this meaningful change as it will have a dramatic impact on employers across the state, including a great many of our members at the Bend Chamber.

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a yes vote on HB 3389.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Katy Brooks
President + CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

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