

February 17, 2009

Honorable Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Unemployment Insurance Modernization Legislation

Dear Senator Rosenbaum:

As Chair of the Oregon Employment Department (OED) Advisory Council, I am writing to express support of three pieces of legislation that are or will be before the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee: SB 461, SB 462 and SB 463.

On February 12, 2009, the OED Advisory Council voted to support these bills: UI Worker Training; Alternative Base Period; and, Part Time Worker Coverage.

It is especially important to get SB 462, Alternative Base Period, passed quickly in order for Oregon to access \$90 million in funding provided for in the very recent Federal Stimulus Package (H.R. 1). These funds currently reside in a Federal Unemployment Account and cannot be accessed fully without having an Alternative Base Period language in state statute.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Rasmussen, Chair
Oregon Employment Department Advisory Council

C: Honorable Chris Telfer, Vice-Chair
Honorable Larry George
Honorable Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Honorable Floyd Prozanski