

## ...It's official: A Burgerville goes union

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in a video statement. "With the same pioneering spirit that Burgerville is known for, we are ready to support the nation's first fast food union."

Burgerville, headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, is a privately held regional fast food chain with 1,500 employees at 42 locations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Burgerville Workers Union, affiliated with the Portland branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, launched in April 2016, and has been calling for a \$5 an hour raise, affordable health benefits, and free child-care. Burgerville Workers Union says it has an active presence at five other locations besides the Southeast 92nd and Powell store: Convention Cen-

ter, Hawthorne, Southeast 26th and Powell, Portland Airport, and Gladstone. Workers at the Gladstone store at 19119 SE McLoughlin Blvd filed a petition for a NLRB election April 18, and an election will be held there May 12-13.

Burgerville also took out a full-page ad in the Oregonian seemingly trumpeting the union vote as another "first" for the trailblazing company — which was also the first fast food chain to switch to cage-free eggs. That's quite a pivot for a company whose CEO sent a letter to all employees the month after the union effort launched saying "Burgerville does not agree that union representation is in the best interests of our employees or Burgerville."

Burgerville Workers Union said in a press statement that its

company-wide boycott will remain in effect until a fair contract is negotiated. The boycott was announced Feb. 2 during a several day strike at four Burgerville locations, and has been endorsed by 18 unions and by Oregon's Democratic House Speaker Tina Kotek, among others.

"The struggle of the Burgerville workers is an inspiration to not just unions, but to all working people," said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain in a press statement offering congratulations on the vote. "Workers in Oregon and across the country are watching as this historic campaign moves forward, and Oregon's union movement stands ready to support Burgerville's workers however we can."

## Joint Select Committee asks for public comments on multiemployer pension plans

Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans co-chairs U.S. Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) are seeking input from stakeholders on how to improve the solvency of multiemployer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC).

"As the committee works to report on the solvency of multiemployer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation and provide recommendations to significantly improve their long-term health, I am interested in hearing from stakeholders," Hatch said. "Information and insights, from both the public and private sectors, will be useful to the committee as it analyzes the challenges plaguing the current multiemployer pension system and works to de-

velop solutions to strengthen retirement security for Americans across the country."

"This committee is finally forcing Congress to treat the pension crisis in this country with the seriousness and urgency American workers deserve. Hearing directly from workers, retirees and businesses about what is at stake for them will help the committee craft the best possible solution," said Brown.

Stakeholders can submit input to the Joint Select Committee's mailbox at [JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov](mailto:JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov). The deadline to respond is Sept. 30, 2018. All submissions will be considered part of the public record; should be clear and concise; directed at the issues that the Joint Select Committee is charged to consider; and

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