

## Union coalition says it's time to restore legal rights for workers and consumers

Companies are increasingly insisting that workers and consumers waive their legal rights through arbitration clauses.

Workers and consumers ought to have the right to use the courts, and to sue if they're wronged by corporations. But increasingly, corporations are locking employees and customers out of those rights by requiring them to sign arbitration clauses as a condition of employment or doing business.

On Labor Day, a union-backed campaign launched in order to end that practice by passing a bill called the Oregon Corporate Accountability Act in next year's legislative session. It's a coalition effort by the Oregon AFL-CIO, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, PCUN, and the Oregon Working Families Party, together with the



Adam Bristow, Sydney Scout, and Hannah Taube of the Oregon Working Families Party helped get the word out about the campaign at the Portland Labor Day picnic in Oaks Park.

Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, the Northwest Worker Justice Project and the Center for Popular Democracy.

Campaign manager Sydney Scout says the coalition would like to see a bill modeled on California's Private Attorneys

General Act that passed in 2004, which allows private individuals to sue over labor law violations on behalf of the state.

The campaign will be meeting with lawmakers to line up support for the idea.

## UNIONIZATION → JUL-AUG 2018

The following are Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces where workers have decided whether to be represented by a union. The thumbs-up symbol means workers will be union-represented. Thumbs-down means they'll be on their own. "Decert" means a decertification election, where union-represented workers voted whether to remain union. The information comes from the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

### Union election results

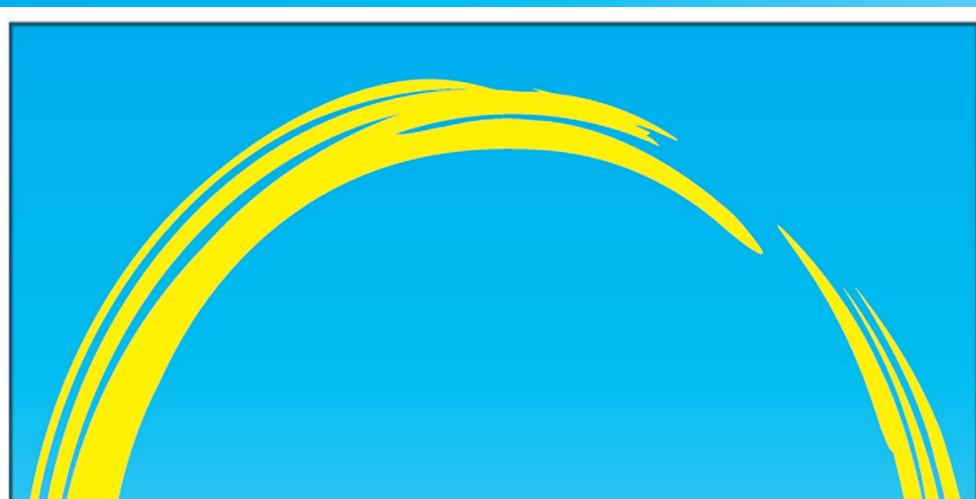
Employer (Location) Union	Yes-No	
<b>VCA NW Veterinary Specialists</b> (Clackamas) ILWU Local 5 ▪ 13 veterinary technicians and other support staff	54-53	👍
<b>Tillamook Dairy</b> (Tillamook) IUOE Local 701 <b>DECERT</b> ▪ 31 maintenance technicians at the Tillamook cheese plant	10-19	👎
<b>Swire Coca-Cola</b> (Bend) Teamsters Local 962 <b>DECERT</b> ▪ 19 drivers, loaders, and merchandisers	5-13	👎
<b>Providence Milwaukie Hospital</b> (Milwaukie) IUOE Local 701 ▪ 5 skilled maintenance employees	4-1	👍
<b>Oregon Shakespeare Festival</b> (Ashland) IATSE Local 154 ▪ 50 costume department employees	21-25	👎
<b>Murphy Company</b> (Sweet Home) Machinists Lodge W246 <b>DECERT</b> ▪ 80 log yard and mill workers at the Murphy softwood veneer plant	24-45	👎

### Unionization by majority signup

Employer (Location) Union
<b>Junction City Rural Fire Protection District</b> (Junction City) IAFF Local 851 ▪ 4 firefighters
<b>Yachats Rural Fire Protection District</b> (Yachats) IAFF Local 4619 ▪ 7 firefighter/paramedics
<b>Sunset Empire Transportation District</b> (Astoria) ATU Local 757 ▪ 20 bus drivers and mechanics

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