



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

December 29, 2011

Mr. Dan LaRocque, Chairperson
Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council
201 E. Washington Ave, 3rd floor
Madison, WI 53707
HAND DELIVERED

Dear Mr. LaRocque:

I write today to share my support for Senate Bill 346 as introduced by Senator Wirch and Representative Pocan earlier this year. This legislation is an important effort to address an anomaly between Wisconsin statutes and the laws in 44 other states. Please share this letter with the members of the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council for their consideration at your earliest opportunity.

Wisconsin state statutes currently provide that employees who leave or lose their work with an employer due to a strike against that employer are not eligible to receive unemployment insurance (UI). The statute, which was enacted during the 1930s and revised over the years, applies to those who initiated the strike as well as those who simply worked at the company at the time the strike began. I understand that this statutory language has recently affected approximately 150 non-striking employees of Manitowoc Cranes, who have been laid off due to the strike through no fault of their own, and currently are ineligible for UI benefits. The strike has gone on for several weeks, leaving these non-striking individuals with no paycheck or UI support for themselves and their families.

Please consider endorsing Senate Bill 346 so members of the legislature might see fit to enact this important legislation. This bill would allow non-striking employees like the 150 boilermakers at Manitowoc Cranes the ability to qualify for UI benefits. For your reference, attached is a letter by the company endorsing this change, as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal, which will provide a life line of support for individuals who are out of work during this challenging time through no fault of their own.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Governor

CC: Craig Barkelar, UI Division Administrator