



Oregon Department of Administrative Services
155 Cottage Street NE, U20
Salem, Oregon 97301-3966

News Release

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State and public employee unions reach agreements
AFSCME Council 75 and SEIU Local 503 agree on package to help recruitment and retention of state workers

Salem—The Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have reached tentative agreement on a new contract that covers three bargaining units within the executive branch of state government. The agreement comes after these units failed to ratify an agreement the union and the state reached earlier this year.

The new tentative agreement affects contracts for represented workers in the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and Office of State Fire Marshal, all represented by AFSCME. It provides additional pay increases for specific classifications of workers, and establishes a process to review survey data in setting future pay increases for certain workers early in the bargaining process for 2009-2011.

In addition, the Governor and two key union leaders—Ken Allen, executive director of AFSCME Council 75, and Leslie Frane, executive director of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503—announced adoption of a letter of agreement that provides an additional pay enhancement for state workers. Specifically, the state has offered to add a top pay step and remove the bottom pay step from each salary range of the respective compensation plans at the end of the biennium.

“I believe this new agreement is good for state workers and good for the people of the Oregon,” said Governor Ted Kulongoski. “This agreement will allow us to retain the workers we have and recruit top-quality staff in every agency.”

The Governor also stressed the importance of state employees, citing the recent example of their work during this month’s flooding and windstorms. “Our state workers demonstrated the kind of commitment and selfless dedication that helped save lives and protect property and made us all proud,” the Governor said.

“I appreciate the efforts of AFSCME member leaders and Governor Kulongoski’s office in reaching this agreement,” said Ken Allen. “Everyone worked very hard to make this

happen. The agreement is a powerful recognition of the important work of state employees.”

Kermit Meling, SEIU Local 503 Bargaining Team Member and Oregon Department of Transportation employee, echoed those points. “As we dealt with the impacts of the recent storm, one thing was clear. You want to be working side by side with the best possible crew. This agreement will help address serious recruitment and retention problems among state workers and will mean improvement in the quality of public services for Oregon.”

The SEIU and AFSCME represent about 75 percent of the employees in the state’s executive branch of government. The state will offer the letter of agreement to the other eight unions that have collective bargaining contracts within the state’s executive branch.

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Contact:

Lonn Hoklin (Department of Administrative Services): (503) 378-2627
Ken Allen, AFSCME Council 75: (503) 239-9858; (503) 887-0984, cell
Leslie Frane, SEIU Local 503: (503) 508-1332