

BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES (BOLI)
COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN

Commissioner's Message – June 22, 2012
50 months, \$14.5 million into the hands of Oregonians

Dear Friends:

I've always believed that a job means far more than just the paycheck that you bring home. A job is about creating opportunity and pursuing the American Dream, and I want everyone to have that chance.

That's why I take my responsibilities as Commissioner of Labor and Industries so seriously: having a job means a lot, and Oregon workers deserve to be able to trust that their job will mean a paycheck, on-time, for all the wages they're owed, and that their job won't be taken away unfairly—when the employer decides that a reliable employee won't be reliable anymore when she becomes pregnant, for example.

I am not one to crow about achievements, as you all know, but in a little over four years, **BOLI has put about \$14.5 million into the hands of Oregonians who trusted that their paycheck would be all of what they earned, that it would come on time, that their job or housing wouldn't be denied to them. That makes a big difference in the lives of real Oregonians, many of whom didn't have the resources to hire an attorney, and without BOLI would have been left with nothing.**

It takes a strong team, like the staff I have at BOLI, to put more than \$289,000 a month back into the hands of the working families that should have had it all along. And this is a team that is not only committed to protecting the rights of our fellow Oregonians, but to promoting the strong economy and good jobs that benefit every Oregonian.

Along with protecting employees in the workplace, we continue to work with the great community of Oregon businesses that are doing right by their employees and doing their best to weather this tough economy. BOLI conducts training sessions all over the state and responds to more than 15,000 telephone calls and emails from Oregon businesses each year--**and since 2008 we've put more than 6,200 Oregonians into living wage jobs while they're gaining the skills for a life long career.**

I didn't make all of this happen by myself, but I'm very proud to be leading the team that is getting this important job done.

Sincerely,

Brad

Wage Security Fund Comes to the Rescue in Eastern Oregon

In recent weeks, BOLI staff have processed 237 claims for unpaid final wages from Ontario, OR-based Select Onion, LLC. The claims, totaling almost a quarter of a million dollars, represent nearly one percent of an entire month's payroll for Malheur County, and are being paid from Oregon's unique Wage Security Fund, an account that ensures workers will still be paid their earned wages when their employer shuts down without the resources to cover final paychecks.

Read more:

[Associated Press](#) via the East Oregonian
[The Oregonian](#)
[BOLI's Press Release](#)

Avakian Awards \$152,216 in Pregnancy Discrimination Case

Commissioner Avakian has awarded more than \$150,000 in back pay and mental and emotional suffering damages to a Medford woman who was unlawfully demoted from her assistant manager position and then fired by Cyber Center, Inc. and CEO Gary Speaks when she became pregnant.

Read more:

[Medford Mail Tribune](#)
[BOLI's Press Release](#)

Avakian Keeping Close Tabs on Oregon Workforce

In recent site visits, Commissioner Avakian has been to the training center for Oregon's only Iron Worker apprenticeship program and observed a pre-apprenticeship “boot camp” put on by the Carpenters. These meetings with the state’s current and future skilled trades workers—apprentices that are working and bringing home a paycheck as they learn the skills they need for a living wage career and young people interested in joining them—are an important function of the state Labor and Industries Commissioner.

Read more:

[BOLI's Press Release](#) on the Iron Workers visit
[BOLI's Press Release](#) on the Carpenters Boot Camp

The TA Tracker

Technical Assistance for Employers Program through five months of 2012

TRAINING SERVICES:	BROUGHT TO THESE COUNTIES:
BOLI Technical Assistance seminars:	Lane, Marion, Multnomah, Baker, Umatilla, Jackson, Douglas
Public seminars hosted by local OECs:	Coos, Linn-Benton, Lane, Malheur, Union, Curry, Multnomah, Josephine, Washington
Private, customized on-site trainings:	Lane, Multnomah, Marion, Washington, Douglas
New Supervisor Seminar Series:	Multnomah—coming soon to Marion!
Total training days logged since Jan. 1	63

To learn more about TA's various services and how they can help your business, visit www.oregon.gov/BOLI/TA. We value your support!

For a printable PDF of the Commissioner's Message, [click here](#)

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