



For Immediate Release

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**BOLI taps Wage Security Fund to direct \$45,000 to unpaid EcoCab drivers**

*“Our agency can help workers make ends meet when a business closes its doors,” says Avakian*

PORTLAND, OR—The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has directed more than \$45,000 in unpaid wages to 60 employees of Portland’s EcoCab, LLC, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian announced today.

The agency made payments through the state’s Wage Security Fund after the company ceased operations earlier this year. The fund helps employees receive wages earned during the 60 days preceding a business closure if the employer is financially unable to pay.

BOLI encouraged employees who’ve yet to be paid to contact the agency’s [Wage and Hour Division](#). Workers can file wage claims with BOLI by contacting the agency at (971) 673-0844 or emailing [whdscreener@boli.state.or.us](mailto:whdscreener@boli.state.or.us).

“Workers who never receive a final paycheck when a business shuts its doors still have expenses and bills to pay,” said Labor Commissioner Avakian. “Our Wage Security Fund can help employees make ends meet, even if the business has closed and has no ability to meet its payroll obligations. We can investigate and pay employees the wages they are owed once we’ve independently verified wages are due.”

EcoCab ceased operations in late February. Three additional wage claim investigations remain open.

BOLI wage and hour investigators determine and verify how much, if any, is owed each worker. BOLI may pay a maximum of \$4,000 to an individual worker for wages earned in the 60-day period prior to a business closure. The fund covers only wages.

Oregon finances the fund through a diversion of three cents per \$100 of the state’s employment tax paid by employers for one quarter (three months) every odd-numbered year. After BOLI distributes payments from the Wage Security Fund, the agency seeks to recover the wages owed from the business or its successor, if any.

Oregon is one of only two states in the country to have a Wage Security Fund.

For more information about BOLI’s efforts to protect workplaces and support Oregon employers, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI>.

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