



Commissioner Brad Avakian

Bureau of Labor and Industries

Media Advisory

For Planning Purposes

April 6, 2009

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Ron Wyden, Brad Avakian and Maj. Gen. Rees to Discuss Employment Resources and Opportunities for Returning Veterans

A news conference on the high unemployment rate among Oregon veterans and various employment resources available to returning veterans, including apprenticeship programs.

PORTLAND, OR- Oregon Senator Ron Wyden will join State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian next Tuesday, April 7 for a discussion on the high unemployment rate of returning veterans and efforts to reduce it. The news conference will promote resources and programs currently available to veterans such as Oregon apprenticeship programs, the recently expanded Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and the new veterans hiring preference for public sector employers in Oregon.

In attendance will be Ed Ryding of Dyna Electric, whose company employs veterans in registered apprenticeship programs. The event will be held at NECA/IBEW Local 48, which currently has 31 veterans enrolled and employed in electrical apprenticeships programs.

WHO: Senator Ron Wyden; State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian; Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon National Guard; Mel Lowney, Helmets to Hardhats Program; Jim Booker, Oregon Employment Department

WHAT: Promoting the expanded WOTC, Oregon's apprenticeship programs, and the benefits for Oregon employers and veterans.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2009

WHERE: IBEW Local 48

15937 NE Airport Way, Portland

"Oregon's veterans and employers have benefited from our strong apprenticeship programs, and they will continue to benefit from credits like the WOTC," said Commissioner Avakian. "Thanks to the hard work and leadership of people like Senator Ron Wyden, Oregon businesses can be rewarded for helping reintroduce our unemployed veterans back into the workforce."

The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) works to promote the development of a highly skilled, competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs. To learn more about how BOLI is assisting unemployed veterans, including with opportunities in education and apprenticeship, [please click here](#).

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