



## Commissioner Brad Avakian

Bureau of Labor and Industries

### Press Release

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CONTACT: Kate Newhall 971-673-0786

### *Avakian Recognized for Service to Oregon State Legislature honors former colleague, current Labor Commissioner*

SALEM—In a ceremony at the State Capitol, legislators today honored former Washington County Representative and Senator, and current Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), Brad Avakian. The ceremony was led by Senate President Peter Courtney.

“Brad Avakian will be missed in the Senate. He was a consensus builder who worked diligently to craft legislation, like the Oregon Renewable Energy Act and the Agriculture and Community Water Act. His hard work helped make the 2007 and 2008 Legislative Sessions successful. Oregonians will be well-served by his leadership at BOLI,” said Senator Courtney.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries enforces anti-discrimination laws in workplaces and public accommodations, enforces wage and hour law and educates employers to avoid unnecessary worker complaints. The Bureau also partners with labor, business and other organizations to develop a highly-skilled, competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs.

“As Commissioner, I have the great privilege to work with my former legislative colleagues in new ways,” Avakian said. “I am hopeful that the same innovative and diligent spirit that brought landmark energy and water policy to Oregon will continue in the Capitol, and I look forward to working with the 2009 Legislature to streamline Oregon’s workforce development system and better coordinate the skills of workers with the needs of employers.”

Brad Avakian was first elected in 2002 to represent a portion of Washington County in the Oregon House. Reelected to the House in 2004, he was elected to the Oregon Senate in 2006. Avakian was appointed by the Governor earlier this year to replace departing Commissioner Dan Gardner.

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*The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.*