



**Commissioner Brad Avakian**  
Bureau of Labor and Industries

**Press Release**

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**State Labor Commissioner Hears Workforce Development  
Priorities from Tillamook Area Leaders**

*Roundtable on workforce highlights Tillamook Youth Apprenticeship Program and is attended by Senator Betsy Johnson, Superintendent Randy Schild, and local business leaders.*

TILLAMOOK- State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian met today with leaders, businesses and educators from the Tillamook area for a roundtable discussion of workforce development issues. State Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) and Tillamook School District #9 Superintendent Randy Schild were key players in the discussion that highlighted strategies to improve the workforce development system in Oregon. The event comes as Avakian solicits feedback from communities around the state regarding a proposal to strengthen workforce development efforts and focus on providing workers with the high-skill training necessary to obtain high-wage and high-demand jobs. The group also heard a presentation about the new Industrial Maintenance and Youth Limited Maintenance Electrical Apprenticeship Program now underway in Tillamook, which is a prime example of the role career technical education programs can play in preparing students to enter the workforce.

“Oregon's next frontier begins with identifying what our employers need and seeing that our schools and training programs are equipped to provide it,” said Commissioner Avakian. “This will lead to more local hires and a stronger and a more self-sufficient Oregon economy. The challenging economic climate facing the nation makes these efforts all the more important.”

The Youth Apprenticeship Program in Tillamook, which was approved by the Oregon State Apprenticeship Council in June 2008, is a partnership between Tillamook School District, Tillamook Bay Community College, Hampton Affiliates, Stimson Lumber, the Tillamook County Creamery Association and the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). This Youth Apprenticeship Program was established to better prepare students for high wage, high-demand career opportunities in manufacturing and construction trades. Students participating in the program will receive an associate degree paid for by local business and education partners.

In addition to the Youth Apprenticeship Program, Tillamook High School has been working with students early on to educate them about workforce opportunities and professional technical careers and apprenticeship programs. Workforce partners, such as Stimson Lumber and the Tillamook Creamery, have hosted a number of students at their facilities and have gone  
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to high school classes to recruit students into Industrial Maintenance and Youth Limited Maintenance Electrical Apprenticeship Program. Grant funding and technical support provided by BOLI and workforce partners have helped purchase and support state of the art workforce training equipment at Tillamook High School, which will serve to expose a greater number of high-school students to apprenticeship opportunities.

"The Tillamook School District is committed to providing the best career training opportunities possible for our students, which will in turn have a direct and long-lasting impact on our local business partners," Said Superintendent Randy Schild. "As educators, we also know, and have seen, how programs like these increase student motivation and retention by showing the relevance of academic and occupational instruction."

Severe workforce shortages in the construction and manufacturing sectors are projected over the next 10 years. The Oregon Employment Department estimates the construction industry alone will grow by 14.3 percent during this period. When combined with the number of workers set to retire, it is estimated that an additional 30,000 new workers will be needed to fill new construction jobs in the next 10 years. These plumbers, electricians, and millwrights make up the infrastructure of the state's economy. Ensuring that Oregon workers have the skills necessary to obtain these jobs will ensure Oregon remains competitive in the global market and its workers will have high wage jobs to support a high quality of life.

"Education is the engine that drives our economy. It is critical to identify what employers need and see that our schools and training programs are equipped to provide it," said Senator Betsy Johnson. "We need to ensure today's students are prepared for tomorrow's jobs."

Local leaders participating in the roundtable discussion on workforce development included:

- Tillamook School District #9 Superintendent Randy Schild;
- State Senator Betsy Johnson;
- Mark Elston and Dave Salmon with Hampton Affiliates, Tillamook;
- Ray Mack from the Tillamook Creamery Association;
- Dennis Tracy and Dan Sweeny from Stimson Lumber; and
- Larry Davy with Tillamook County General Hospital.

The State Labor Commissioner oversees the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), which works to promote the development of a highly skilled, competitive workforce in Oregon through the apprenticeship program and through partnerships with government, labor, business, and educational institutions. In addition, the Bureau works to protect the rights of workers and citizens to equal, non-discriminatory treatment; encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment; and advocates policies that balance the demands of the workplace and employers with the protections of workers and their families. The Bureau's Technical Assistance for Employers Unit exists to train employers to understand and comply with the law both wage and hour and civil rights law.

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