

For Immediate Release

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The Bi-Annual Oregon AFL-CIO Convention Sets New Attendance Record To Boost Bend's Economy By More Than \$300,000

Bend, OR – October 27, 2009 – The Bi-Annual Oregon AFL-CIO Convention concluded today at The Riverhouse Convention Center after setting new attendance records and impacting the local economy by an estimated \$342,000. Nearly 500 attendees took part in the two day convention, including three hundred affiliate organizations. This week's conference was the first time the AFL-CIO had held their convention in Central Oregon in more than fifty years.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is part of the national American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)—a voluntary federation of America's unions, representing 10.5 million members, including 2 million members in Working America, its community affiliate. The AFL-CIO was formed in 1955 by the merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

According to Stacie Bushaw, Associate Director of Sales for The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, "We were very excited to get this convention to Central Oregon. The AFL-CIO has historically booked their bi-annual meetings in more metropolitan locations." We are fortunate to have a facility like The Riverhouse Convention Center to attract new and significantly larger groups to Bend."

In addition to retail spending, dining and recreation, the convention generated over 600 room nights for local lodging properties. Publicly funded Convention Centers like Seaside and Salem realize tens of millions of dollars annually in economic impact as a direct result of their group events. Seaside Civic and Convention Center's General Manager, Russell Vandenberg estimates the yearly economic impact to the City of Seaside is more than 30 million.

Outside of the Oregon Convention Center, The privately funded Riverhouse Convention Center is the only other LEED Silver Certified Convention Facility in the state and the largest east of the Cascades. The 54,000+ square foot building built by Kirby Nagelhout, opened in December of 2006. The 16,000 square foot ballroom is the second largest hotel/convention center ballroom in Oregon and can accommodate over 1,000 people for dinner. The facility can accommodate conferences with concurrent meetings, meals, exhibit/tradeshows and breakout sessions. The highlight of the facility is not only the size and the state-of-the-art technology environment, but also the spectacular river view deck and outside function areas. The main level has a beautiful lobby area with a large fireplace, waterfall, executive boardroom, business center, as well as a full production kitchen. The lower level offers an additional 14,000 square foot. Exhibit hall. For more information, visit www.riverhouse.com.

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