



NEWS RELEASE
October 16, 2007

For more information, contact:
Megan Doern, 503.552.6754

**Alliance Supports Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Expansion,
Change to Portland's Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund**

Portland Ore. – The Portland Business Alliance Board of Directors recently voted to support two local initiatives appearing on the ballot this November. The Board endorsed a move to expand the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and a modification to the Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund extending medical benefits. An overview of each ballot initiative is below.

“Each year the Alliance Board reviews ballot measures and focuses primarily on local and regional ballot measures that specifically pertain to issues that impact its member companies,” said Sandra McDonough, President and CEO of the Alliance. “Both the Clackamas County Board Expansion and the change to the Portland's Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund were identified as critical to the health of their respective communities and the Board was pleased to put its support behind each one.”

Clackamas County Board Expansion

The Clackamas County ballot measure would expand the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to a five-member board, instead of three. The Alliance Board believes this measure is important because Clackamas County is one of the most rapidly developing counties in the State of Oregon and the need for additional elected representation has been voiced by a number of civic and business organizations in the area. The measure would also create a Chair for the Board of Commissioners, to be elected by county voters.

Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund

Also endorsed by the Alliance board is ballot measure in Portland that would change the Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund by extending medical benefits to officers for a service related injury upon retirement. In November 2006, voters approved changes to the City of Portland Charter related to the Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund, but the changes did not address the disincentive for officers that have received a service related injury to return to work. Under the current system, officers will receive medical benefits for a service related injury while on disability, but is not eligible for the benefits upon retirement.

###

The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce representing more than 1,300 businesses in the region. The Alliance focuses on central city and regional issues and recognizes that the vitality of the central city and the region depend on one another, and Portland's vibrant, growing downtown is a regional asset.