



**Salem, Oregon
April 12, 2012**

Senator Besty Johnson, Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart to hold Town Hall with Oregon Travel Experience on April 20, 2012

Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson, Tillamook Commissioner Mark Labhart, and Oregon Travel Experience (OTE) will host a Town Hall Meeting in Tillamook, Oregon. The town hall is scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tillamook County Library, Hatfield Room, 1716 Third St., Tillamook, Oregon.

The public forum will be held to discuss OTE's new management at the Tillamook and Oregon North Coast region's highway rest area.

Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart said, "This is a great opportunity for the public to weigh in on this important rest area in Tillamook County that receives thousands of visitors along Highway 101 each year."

"Special thanks to Oregon Travel Experience for their leadership role in assuming management of this rest area and to Senator Johnson for helping to secure the funding so that OTE has adequate dollars to manage this site," added Commissioner Labhart.

OTE assumed supervisory control from the Oregon Department of Transportation as a result of 2012 legislation and unanimous vote on Senate Bill 1591. OTE currently manages nine other highway safety rest areas along I-5, I-84 and at Government Camp.

"Senator Johnson's and Commissioner Labhart's vision for the future economic growth of their community will help guide OTE's work as we move forward with plans to revitalize the Tillamook rest area," said OTE's CEO Cheryl Gribbskov.

"The town hall meeting will be an ideal forum for business owners and local residents to contribute their own ideas about how we shape the future of rest areas," Gribbskov continued. "It is important we hear from those who live in the local community."

A tour of the Tillamook rest area and ribbon cutting ceremony with the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce will take place following the town hall meeting and is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. The public is invited to all activities, including a meeting by OTE's governing Council, which will be held at 9:00 a.m., prior to the Town Hall. The Council meeting will be held at the same location as the Town Hall, in the Hatfield Room at the Tillamook County Library.

Oregon Travel Experience is a semi-independent state agency with a diverse portfolio. OTE manages the following public programs in addition to highway safety rest areas: Oregon Heritage Tree Program, Oregon Historical Marker Program, Highway Business Signs Program, and Travel Information Kiosks and Travel Plazas. OTE is first and foremost, a transportation agency which guides motorists to essential services and visitor information. We also help strengthen the economic infrastructure of local communities and businesses by working with partner coalitions.

**For more information about the Tillamook Town Hall Meeting, please contact Madeline MacGregor, OTE Communications Officer at 503-373-0090 or by email at maddiem@oregonte.com
Visit us on the Web at www.ortravelexperience.com.**

This press release was sent by Oregon Travel Experience, 1500 Liberty Street SE, Salem, OR 97302, 1-800-574-9397