



### **Salem, Oregon July 24, 2012**

Tim Pickett, Chief Operating Officer for Oregon Travel Experience (OTE), has been named interim CEO of the semi-independent state agency. Pickett will manage the daily affairs of OTE while its governing body (the Oregon Travel Information Council - OTIC) conducts a recruitment process for a permanent CEO.

During the June 24th council meeting, OTIC also elected new officers to lead its council. Gwenn Baldwin, Baldwin Consulting LLC, was appointed chair; Robert Russell, Oregon Trucking Association, was appointed to vice chair; and Mary Olson, Oregon Transportation Commission, was named secretary.

Longtime CEO, Cheryl Gribskov, retired from her 28-year career with OTE on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Gribskov charted a course for OTE which saw unprecedented growth over the last two years. "It is the right time to let a new generation of leadership take OTE to the next level," said Gribskov. "And with a new council and leadership in place, I feel the agency is left in visionary and competent hands."

During the February 2012 legislative session, OTE was given managerial responsibility over additional Oregon rest areas along Interstate highways. The agency's innovative management model has earned accolades from legislative and community leaders across the state.

Interim CEO Pickett, will help formalize the rest area management plan and other vital programs which the public relies on. "My job now is to continue the mission that Cheryl created and to ensure that the growth the Legislators created is executed flawlessly," Pickett said. "It's imperative the agency is ready for its new responsibilities."

Pickett graduated from Gonzaga University with a degree in English and journalism. He later added an accounting degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. His executive curriculum vitae include roles as Deputy Director for AgriBioTech and Senior Vice President for Olsen Agricultural Enterprises, LLC. Pickett is well prepared to lead OTE through its leadership transition.

"I am honored to be entrusted with the responsibility," said Pickett. "We have a dedicated and energetic staff whose focus is on customer support and ensuring a seamless transition."

***For more information on OTE, its council or leadership, contact Madeline MacGregor in the OTE Communications Office: 503-373-0090. Email to: [maddiem@oregonte.com](mailto:maddiem@oregonte.com) [www.ortravelexperience.com](http://www.ortravelexperience.com)***

OTE is a semi-independent state agency rooted in transportation. We help motorists make all-important connections to businesses, local communities and essential services through our signs and promotional programs. We help communities partner with a unique state agency and solve critical problems which affect all Oregonians and travelers. We help enrich the hearts and minds of our public through heritage programs and help maintain important cultural and historical icons.