

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

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To All State Employees:

On January 12th I step down as "your boss" and leave twenty-eight years of public elective office. During those years I have had the privilege of working with and knowing many of you. During the last eight years we have been part of the same team.

Let me tell you what I have told the public many, many times -- Oregonians should be very proud of their state government and the people who serve them. It would be foolish to say that in our government there are not some that are not pulling their own weight or who are not doing their job as they should. However, I know we do not have a corner on that kind of failure and from my experience in business and government I know you represent an organization more effective and more efficient than many private enterprises.

It is a shame that many who run for office perpetuate the fallacy that government is bloated, lazy and wasteful. The government that you and I work for does not deserve that kind of treatment. You are hard working, dedicated, innovative, caring and proud of your service to your fellow Oregonians.

To those who have been with me beginning in 1979, thank you for an incredible performance in the most tempestuous times in our history. To those of you who are new to state government, know that you are working with peers who have added luster to your profession.

And so I want to leave you with this message -- I am proud of you and proud that I have worked with you. Continue to find better ways to do your job as you have these past eight years. Always remember "the State of Oregon" is not me or any others who are high profile, but you -- each individually.

You are staying -- I am leaving. You have my sincere and warmest best wishes for fruitful and meaningful years of public service ahead.

I leave with a smile because I worked with you.

Sincerely,

Victor Atiyeh
Governor