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February 3, 2012

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## **Portland Business Alliance releases update of Value of Jobs Action Plan** *Improvement in employment and wage growth metrics, policy objectives on track*

Portland, Ore. – Today, the Value of Jobs Coalition released an update to its action plan, which shows improvement in the plan’s economic metrics (employment and wages) as well as progress on a significant number of policy goals aimed to spur private-sector job creation. The action plan was developed at the coalition’s Jobs Summit held last January and outlines ways to measure and improve private-sector job growth. The action plan will continue to drive policy efforts of the Portland Business Alliance and its Value of Job coalition partners in the 2012 session and beyond.

“Our Value of Jobs action plan shows that we have been successful in advancing policies that positively impact job growth,” said J.E. Isaac, the Portland Business Alliance’s board chair. “But we still have our work cut out for us, as our region is still suffering from high unemployment and we continue to fall below the national average in income and wages, which results in under-funded schools and other public services.”

The Jobs Summit held last year included 140 public- and private-sector leaders who discussed issues such as education, small business development, tax policy, economic development and other issues that directly impact private-sector job growth. Summit attendees agreed on a new vision for the Portland-metro region: Create a vibrant and prosperous regional economy that generates family-wage jobs and sufficient tax revenues to support critical public services.

Since the summit, significant progress has been made on key issues in the action plan and groundwork has been laid to improve the region’s educational outcomes, spur economic development initiatives and increase access to capital for small business. A number of key issues critical to private-sector job growth remain, however, including improving educational attainment and state revenue stability and tax reform.

“With the help and collaboration of the Value of Jobs coalition and our business association partners, I hope to see even more progress next January on policies that spur private-sector job growth,” Isaac said.

[View the JOBS Action Plan and progress report >>](#)

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### **About the Alliance**

*The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland’s Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 1,200 businesses in the region. The Portland Business Alliance’s mission is to promote and foster an environment in the Portland region that attracts, supports and retains private-sector jobs, spurs economic vitality and enables quality educational opportunities for the region’s residents. Visit [www.portlandalliance.com](http://www.portlandalliance.com) for more information.*

### **Value of Jobs Coalition**

*The Value of Jobs coalition was formed in 2010. The coalition believes that in order to create a healthy community, Portland-metro needs more private-sector jobs and better wages and incomes. The coalition’s work is based on third-party data conducted by ECONorthwest. Coalition members include: Portland Business Alliance, Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon Business Council, Port of Portland and Oregon Business Association and has numerous supporters and sponsors. More information can be found at [www.ValueofJobs.com](http://www.ValueofJobs.com).*