

January 13, 2009 Energy Action NW Press Conference
State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon

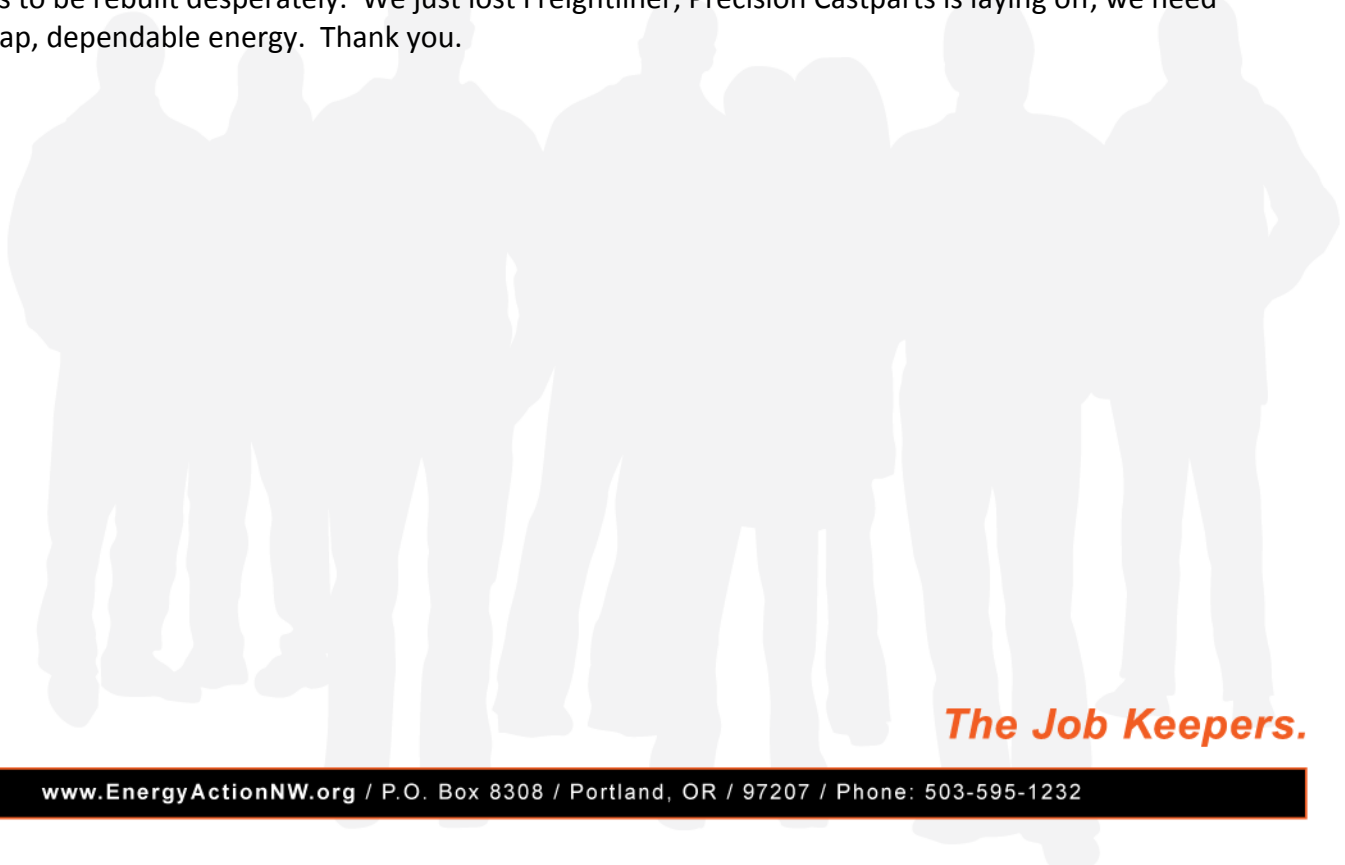
Remarks by Tom Chamberlain, Oregon AFL-CIO President

Good morning everyone. I am Tom Chamberlain, President of Oregon AFL-CIO, representing 225,000 working families in the state of Oregon—folks who care about their environment and care about the future of their kids, but they also care about putting food on the table, clothing those kids and giving them a good education.

Our nation faces a crisis; nationally we have 7.2% of our workforce out of work. And when you add in those folks who had a full time job and are now working a part time job, you're getting close to 14%. And we have folks who want to do good things; they want to do good things by the workers in their families.

I truly believe that at a federal level and here at the state of Oregon, there will be a debate about how we will rebuild our economy and our middle class. And there will be a debate about green jobs, and renewable resources. But the problem is that a lot of those jobs that we create through those means are 5 or 10 years out. And that's not going to help the 14% that are out of work today.

What we have with LNG is a bridge fuel that will put folks to work almost immediately, 400 of them, in construction of a plant. A plant that will generate needed power to generate our manufacturing industry that needs to be rebuilt desperately. We just lost Freightliner, Precision Castparts is laying off, we need good, cheap, dependable energy. Thank you.



The Job Keepers.