U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
700 West Jefferson, 2nd floor
Boise, Idaho 83720

JUN 30 2005

Dear Governor Kempthorne:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Idaho's requests for waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, subtitles B and E and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act. In the Strategic State Plan for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act for the two-year period, July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007, the state submitted two requests for waivers. The requests are written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c), and appear to meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). The following is the disposition of the state's waiver submission (copy enclosed).

Requested Waiver 1: Extension of the waiver of the time limit on the period of initial eligibility at 20 CFR 663.530.

The state indicates that an extension of the waiver for training providers is requested to address the continuing difficulties in collection of "all student" information from training providers. Without an extension, the state indicates that many training providers are likely to opt out of the Eligible Training Provider system, thus limiting customer choice. Accordingly, the State of Idaho is granted an extension of the waiver through June 30, 2007.

Requested Waiver 2: Waiver to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f), which permits a state board to carry out the roles of a local board in a single local area, to a statewide regional planning area.

The State of Idaho is requesting a waiver to permit the state to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f) to the statewide regional planning area described in its State Plan. This provision allows states that operate as a single local workforce investment area to use the state workforce investment board to carry out the requirements of the local workforce investment board. The state is seeking to use its state board to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the local boards in the designated region encompassing the state. The state proposes designation of two areas which will enter into a cooperative

arrangement to function in the same manner as a single state area. In support of its request, the state indicates that a waiver will enable the state to dramatically reduce overhead, further integrate economic development activities, expand the number of one-stop centers from six to twenty-four, strengthen administrative oversight and accountability processes, and leverage additional youth resources. The state expects to increase training opportunities for an additional 500 or more adults, dislocated workers and at-risk youth, and add services for the business community.

Accordingly, we are granting a waiver to permit the state to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f) to the designated statewide region described in its State Plan, through June 30, 2007. Under the waiver, the Governor may designate the state board to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the local boards in the designated region encompassing the state, in the same manner as permitted in single service delivery area states.

As provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, the approved waivers are incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement. A copy of this letter should be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's Strategic Plan, as appropriate.

We support Idaho's efforts to streamline its governance structure and agree that it will result in better services for Idaho's citizens as well as provide improved efficiency and greater accountability. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce investment outcomes. We are prepared to entertain other state and local-level waiver requests that you may wish to submit, consistent with the provisions of the WIA statute and regulations.

Sincerely,

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure