U.S. Department of Labor

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

JUN 30 2004

The Honorable John Baldacci
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Baldacci:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Maine's request for an extension of a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waiver of the time limit on the period of initial eligibility of training providers at 20 CFR 663.530, 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.

The State of Maine's request (copy enclosed) indicates that it continues to experience difficulty in the collection of "all student" performance data from training providers in the specified timeframe to meet recertification requirements. The state believes a waiver extension will provide additional time to address concerns related to implementation of subsequent eligibility requirements, and allow it to continue to offer the broadest range of training options to its customers.

The waiver is written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c) and appears to meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). Accordingly, the State of Maine is granted an extension of the waiver through June 30, 2005.

The granted waiver is incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitutes a modification of the state's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of this letter should be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's approved five-year strategic plan, as appropriate.

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