U.S. Department of Labor

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

OCT 13 2004

The Honorable Bob Wise
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0370

Dear Governor Wise:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of West Virginia'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. 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.

The State of West Virginia's request (copy enclosed) indicates that it continues to experience difficulty in the collection of performance data from training providers. According to the state, a waiver extension would provide the state additional time to develop an effective data collection and reporting process, and continue to offer the broadest choice of training providers 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 West Virginia is granted an extension of this waiver through June 30, 2005, with an effective date of July 1, 2004.

The granted waiver extension 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