



JUN 30 2004

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Governor of Alaska
State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Murkowski:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Alaska's request for an extension of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waivers. This response is provided in accordance with 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 Alaska is requesting an extension of the following approved waivers that expire June 30, 2004:

- Waiver to permit the state to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f) to the designated statewide region, granted on October 8, 2003, and
- Waiver of the requirements relating to local performance under WIA Section 136(c) and 20 CFR 666.300 and 666.310.

The State of Alaska's request (copy enclosed) indicates that the waivers have enabled the state to change its workforce investment structure to create a streamlined and accountable workforce investment system. According to the state, the change in accountability ensures timely response to changes in performance as demonstrated by the improved performance of the older youth programs. The state seeks an extension of the waivers to continue its efforts toward streamlining, standardization and accountability for job training programs.

The request 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 Alaska is granted an extension of the two waivers through June 30, 2005.

The granted waiver extensions are incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitute a modification of the state's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of each 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Stover DeRocco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure