



May 29, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chair
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Budget Committee and
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Subcommittee on Employment Workforce Safety
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin, Alexander, Murray, and Isakson:

On behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), we want to thank you for your bipartisan leadership in introducing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. NADO believes this legislation is an important, critical step toward strengthening and modernizing the nation's workforce investment system. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation that ensures that all workers and businesses have access to the training and skills they need to compete in today's global economy.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (H.R. 803 as amended) makes a number of important improvements to the workforce development system that reflects the principles of our members who operate local workforce systems. In particular, we support efforts in the legislation to:

- Retain the local workforce delivery system that is based on regional economies and local labor markets, and lead by local elected officials and business leaders who are most familiar with their local economies and ways in which they can be strengthened and improved. The legislation encourages and supports the alignment between local workforce areas and labor markets and economic development regions.
- Streamline the state and local governance process to ensure that job training and employment services are delivered effectively to meet the needs of employers and workers by applying one set of performance metrics to every federal workforce program.

- Allow local board flexibility to provide for the customization of workforce and training needs by reducing the number of required board members to 19. A successful workforce system must be manageable enough not to delay the connection of jobseekers with employers who hire them. Additionally, the legislation maintains that a state's governor does not have the authority to consolidate local boards.

In closing, we appreciate your ongoing bipartisan commitment to improving and strengthening the nation's workforce investment system that enhances regional and economic innovation at the local level. We stand ready to work with you and your Senate colleagues to ensure this bipartisan legislation is passed.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Gregory
Executive Director
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, Woodstock, VT
President
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
Washington, DC



Joe C. McKinney
Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
Washington, DC