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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

March 14, 2006

David Harrison, Chair
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Post Office Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear David

I'm writing today to share my expectations of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) with regard to the review of the workforce system that I have requested. My trade missions have reinforced my appreciation of the role a skilled workforce plays in economic growth and competitiveness. I believe that Washington State needs the best workforce development system in the country- if not the world.

Further, my proposal to create a Department of Early Learning resulted from my desire for a more efficient, transparent and responsive early learning system. For these reasons, I believe a review is needed to identify ways in which our workforce development system can be improved to better serve our citizens and meet the needs of employers.

I very much appreciate the Board's agreement to conduct this review, and look forward to examining its results. Knowing the Board's expertise, and the business and labor commitment to excellent customer service, I am confident that the review will be thorough, hard questions will be asked, and all viewpoints will be included. I am also certain that the indispensable role of business and labor will continue, and that good ideas for improvement will surface. The Board is well suited to look for opportunities to integrate services and eliminate any duplication and redundancy.

I am interested in periodic updates; you can depend on me to put improvements in place expeditiously. If policy or budget legislation is required, I would like to be ready for the 2007 legislative session; if it is possible to accomplish improvements through Executive Orders or other directives, I'm prepared to take those steps as well. I am assigning Deb Merle and Marc Baldwin to be your primary contacts in the months ahead.

This review should begin as soon as possible. I will work with you this spring to appoint an Interim Executive Director. Under the direction of the Board, the Interim Executive Director will serve as the primary staff lead (to work in collaboration with other senior staff and partners) for the workforce system review. The Interim Director will also ensure continued momentum for the Board's initiatives and ongoing responsibilities. I recognize the Board's need to structure the further elements of the role of the Interim Director. I look forward to the business and labor Board members' nominations for my consideration, and plan to have an Executive Director in place before the start of the 2007 legislative session.