



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board  
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November 20, 2009

Victor Moore, Budget Director  
Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am writing on behalf of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board which is directed by state law to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding budget requests related to our state's workforce development system.

Last year, the Workforce Board adopted *High Skills, High Wages 2008 – 2018*, the state's strategic plan for workforce development dedicated to helping Washington residents obtain and succeed in family-wage jobs, while meeting employers' needs for a skilled workforce. In that plan, we identified eight key strategic opportunities that should be addressed within the first two to four years, many of which called for increased investments. The state economic conditions precluded the Governor and Legislature from making those increased investments in the 2009-2011 general fund operating budget. They did, however, maintain funding levels for a number of historical investments related to these strategies because they understand how critical they are in guaranteeing opportunities for under skilled Washingtonians.

The Workforce Board understands the economic situation has not improved. However, we encourage the Governor and the Legislature to maintain the current level of investment in the strategic areas we have already identified as a priority. Attachment A is a list of the 2009-2011 budget investments related to these strategic opportunities and the rationale for maintaining these investments.

The Workforce Board has also reviewed the workforce-related budget requests from state agencies for the upcoming session in light of how they support the same strategic opportunities. The Board also recommends approval of the two agency budget requests as set forth in the attached resolutions.

Contained in the enclosed resolutions are endorsements of the Employment Security Department budget request to adjust the expenditure authority for worker retraining under E2SSB 5809 to allow the continued use of incentive funds in Fiscal Year 2011 and an endorsement of the budget request from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) for an increase for an additional \$49.6 million for the Worker Retraining Program for the current biennium and a doubling of the current financial aid funding.

If you have any question about these endorsements or about how workforce development is helping to ensure that our citizens and businesses are poised to take full advantage of the next period of economic growth, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Eleni Papadakis  
Executive Director