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December 3, 2009

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire,

As local elected officials we ask your immediate attention regarding the recently released draft report: *Washington's Workforce Development System: a review of critical components, as directed by Governor Gregoire.*

The draft report, released late in the evening on November 24th closes the opportunity for public comment on December 7, 2009. This short time period does not give appropriate time to prepare a thoughtful response to the proposed substantive changes outlined in the report.

Our request to extend the comment period to March 31, 2010 will give us time to review how the proposed changes impact our local workforce area. We see no value in making significant changes to the authority of the local system that allows us to respond to our local economy. Diminishing the voice of business and labor at the local level is also a concern for us.

We appreciate your prompt attention to his request.

Jim Beaver
Commissioner
Benton County

Rick Miller
Commissioner
Franklin County

CC: Marty Brown
Bob Bertsch
Michelle Mann

Benton-Franklin Counties

Workforce Development Council