

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 06/28/04

FROM: WIB Staff

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: Letters to legislators to support local dollars, control and flexibility

PROPOSED MOTION(S): To have WIB members write letters similar to the attached sample to engage legislators in developing and supporting legislation that will maintain the workforce investment dollars locally, and ensure local governance.

DISCUSSION: There is a reform initiative being promoted by President Bush, in addition to HR 1261, that will strip the local areas of funding by consolidating 4 major employment and training programs; Adult, Dislocated Worker, Wagner Peyser and possibly WIA Youth. The reform agenda also includes expanding the use of ITA's (Innovation Training Accounts), shifting \$250 million to community colleges for a "High Growth Training Initiative" and changing the state/local governance balance by shifting resources, decision making, and control from the local county supervisors and the WIB to governors and state bureaucracies.

ATTACHMENT(S): Sample Letter

The Honorable Jeff Denham
California State Senate, District 12
Room 4090 State Capitol
P.O. Box 942848
Sacramento CA 94248-00001

Sample Letter

Dear Senator Denham:

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is extremely concerned about President Bush's "reform" initiative and the negative impact it would have on our local workforce investment system.

The Workforce Investment System in Merced is successful in meeting the needs of employers and job seekers because it is driven by local demand with local control and flexibility. The Workforce Investment Board is the leader in addressing regional strategic issues to improve the workforce such as education, economic development and workforce/affordable housing. The local economy has improved and the community has been strengthened with local leaders collaborating and working together to advance the economic climate.

To alter that would result in less local dollars to assist the business community and job seekers. A shift in local control to the governor would cause decisions to be made by those who are not in touch with the local conditions and governance would be distanced and bureaucratic.

Please work with us to development and support legislation that will keep governance and resources at the local level. There it can be managed with the greatest efficiency so that we can respond directly to the needs of Merced businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

WIB Member

Addresses for Sample Letters

The Honorable Jeff Denham
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PO Box 942848
Sacramento, CA 94248-00001

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza
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The Honorable Barbara Matthews
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