

Date

**The Honorable
Member of U.S. Congress**

Dear:

As you begin to work on the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue your support of the local workforce system by requesting full funding of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs at \$8.35 billion.

WIA funds are critical to cities so that local workforce areas can maintain basic services to job seekers and workers, and to the business sector whose demand for skilled workers continues to grow.

Insert your local situation – unemployment rate, lay-offs, business needs, training needs, etc. here.....

We recognize that funding for next year's budget is particularly challenging as you seek to stretch limited federal resources across a broad range of national needs. However, the growing needs of the American worker – both those who have lost their jobs and those whose skills need to be upgraded to meet the increasing demands of the economy – cannot be ignored.

We thank you for continuing to recognize the vital importance of job training and applaud your commitment to the workforce system as part of economic recovery efforts – investing nearly \$4 billion for job training through formula grants for adult, dislocated worker, and youth services in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. However, as the unemployment rate continues to rise, demand for WIA services will continue to increase. We cannot begin to address our current economic crisis without full funding of our national workforce system.

Again, we greatly appreciate your hard work and dedication to the workforce system and we stand ready to work with you to support full funding for workforce training programs in the final FY10 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor/WIB Chair