South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance

Governor Bill Haslam
Office of Governor Bill Haslam
1st Floor, State Capital
Nashville, TN 37213

Dear Governor Haslam,

The Chief Elected Officials of the Tennessee Local Workforce Area 10 under Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), consists of the following counties: **GILES, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LEWIS, MARSHALL, MAURY, PERRY, & WAYNE**. Per our understanding of the newly enacted Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, we request permission in the following areas:

Local Designation

It is our desire to continue to operate as a local area under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, and request such designation from the Governor following the instruction of the USDOL on the process of requesting initial designation.

Consistent with the process at WIOA Section 106(b)(1)(A) and the considerations at Section 106(b)(1)(B), the Governor may redesignate local areas at any time upon the request of the chief elected officials in any unit of local government or combination of units of local government with the agreement of the State board.

Because Local Workforce Area 10 as described above has performed successfully and sustained fiscal integrity for the two year period preceding enactment of WIOA, we request immediate consideration of our request, and will continue to operate under our current consortium agreement until such time amendments are required to comply with the new WIOA legislation.

Administrative and Fiscal Entity Designation

The Chief Elected Officials that make up the designated Local Workforce Area 10 also request that the South Central TN Workforce Alliance (SCTWA), a Tennessee incorporated company, because of its successful performance and fiscal integrity, be named the administrative and fiscal entity for the described area in transition and implementation of the newly enacted Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act.

Regional Planning

While certainly part of the larger Middle Tennessee region, our eight county area share many commonalities and commuter patterns. Mostly rural with small cities, our population hits approximately 250,000 spread over the eight counties. Workforce development issues in rural counties and small cities are very different from both micropolitan and urban areas. We address a number of issues in a more regional fashion by joining with the neighboring Middle Tennessee Local Workforce Areas, including 6, 8, and 9 to:

- Plan and implement sector strategies;
- Develop and administer specialized training and pilot projects;
- Share Labor Management Information;
- Serve employer recruitment and hiring needs that stretch beyond our individual areas, such as Nissan, GM, or Ibex Global;
- Coordinate with regional schools and colleges to meet the training and educational needs of our regional employers; and
- Collaborate with Middle Tennessee LWIAs to develop regional plans and provide regional service delivery.

One-Stop Operator

The Chief Elected Officials of the Tennessee Local Workforce Area 10 under Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), consisting of the following counties: **GILES, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, LEWIS, MARSHALL, MAURY, PERRY, & WAYNE**, ask that the SCTWA also serve as operator of the One Stop Delivery System in our area in consortia with the partners housed in the one stop centers. While some changes are inherent because of the new legislation, many of the elements have been in place for many years in our service delivery system. Again, due to the successful attainment of performance and sustained fiscal integrity, we ask for approval to continue operations of the One Stops by Consortium of SCTWA, TDLWD, TDHS Division of Rehabilitative Services, Adult Education, and TANF where present and appropriate.

Thank you so much for consideration of this request. We look forward to successfully partnering in the revamped public workforce system as defined by the Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act of 2015.

Xc: Commissioner Burns Phillips