AWB Association of Washington Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

WSLC Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

December 11, 2014

Dale Peinecke, Commissioner
Employment Security Department
PO Box 9046
Olympia, WA 98057-9046

Dear Commissioner Peinecke:

You are invited to serve on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Steering Committee. As an integral member of the Workforce Development system here in Washington, you serve in a capacity that can make a difference and can provide a unique perspective to the Committee's work.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides Washington State with an opportunity to re-envision our Workforce Development system, to do better for both jobseekers and employers. In October, Governor Inslee designated the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board as the state's Workforce Development Board under WIOA. He tasked the Board with building a state plan that addresses three fundamental goals for the workforce development system:

- *Help more people find and keep jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency, with a focus on disadvantage populations.*
- *Close skill gaps for employers, with a focus on in-demand industry sectors and occupations.*
- *Work together as a single, seamless team to make this happen.*

Governor Inslee recognized that this is an opportunity to *rededicate ourselves to the task of connecting workers with the skills they need to be successful in obtaining a job and building a career, and employers with the skilled workers they need to stay competitive here in Washington.* He sees this as *a tremendous opportunity to ensure that every resident of our state has the chance to earn a living wage and pursue a career, and that every employer has the skilled worker it needs to grow and prosper in our state.*

While Washington served as a model in the design of the Act, Senator Murray and others have challenged us to build on this foundation and to make our system even better. This is a tall order and will require the combined efforts of individuals who can make this vision a reality. Your expertise and vision, combined with that of your fellow committee members can make change possible.

Please let our Committee staffer, Terri Colbert, know if you would like to accept this invitation (360-709-4623 or tcolbert@wtb.wa.gov). We hope that you are able to commit to the work ahead and will be willing to help us rise to the challenges.

Sincerely,

Gary Chandler
Association of Washington Business
Co-Chair, WIOA Steering Committee

Jeff Johnson
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Co-Chair, WIOA Steering Committee