

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor

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Alaska Workforce Investment Board

January 31, 2011

Mayor Jerome M. Selby
Office of the Borough Mayor
Kodiak Island Borough
710 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dear Mayor Selby,

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is very pleased to receive your request to become the Kodiak Workforce Regional Advisory Council. Your request comes to the AWIB at a time that we are forced to revisit the formal definition of a "Region" in relation to the Workforce Investment Board. We reviewed your request at our last full board meeting and decided to table the decision to approve your request until we have solid definition and direction regarding the role of Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) in Alaska. While we cannot guarantee a completion date for our work on this topic, it is a top priority for the Board, for the office of the AWIB, and for our Director, Greg Cashen.

At the heart of our work is the question of how many Regions with which physical and economic boundaries do we recognize at the AWIB. Additionally, we are in a sense, in the infancy of this regional model and need to define the expectations for the AWIB and RACs to create a more effective environment for meeting local needs. We recognize that this delay unfortunately leaves your Council in limbo in regards to formal recognition as a RAC by the AWIB and apologize for the situation. However, neither you nor we should allow this formality to be a barrier. In my personal experience, it is the commitment, passion, and persistence of a handful of individuals that will drive community efforts, and drive success. You and your partner agencies and employers on your Council should be commended for taking the initiative and pushing forward to address your local needs. Regardless of the outcomes of the AWIB analyses, you should continue on this path. We will look forward to working with you in some capacity regardless of the formal decisions on recognized Regions.

The AWIB has requested the Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement committee review the role, function, and placement of the RACs as related to the US Dept of Labor expectations. We are hopeful that a recommendation on the structure of the RACs and regional representation, effective and best practices of RACs, seeking AWIB funds for outreach and support of RAC's, and your request will be made at the next AWIB meeting scheduled on February 22nd and 23rd, 2011 in Juneau. I want to thank you and the Kodiak Island Borough for your efforts in developing your RAC request.

Sincerely,



Jim Lynch, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board

cc: Clark Bishop, Commissioner
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Greg Cashen, Executive Director
Alaska Workforce Investment Board, Department of Labor and Workforce Development