TO: AFFILIATE ONE-STOPS
   COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOPS
   WIA 166 AND 477 GRANTEES
   DOL ETA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
   STATE GOVERNORS
   STATE WIA LIAISONS
   STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
   WIB STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
   WIB LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
      Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
         from Interviews with 20 States

1. **Purpose.** To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper: Evaluation of
   Waivers Granted Under WIA: Findings from Interviews with 20 States

2. **Background.** The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), administered by the U.S.
   Department of Labor (DOL), is the largest source of federally-funded employment and training
   services. The program services, provided by state and local WIA agencies, involve many
   statutory and regulatory requirements applied uniformly across the country. Due to state and
   local area differences, WIA allows states to apply for waivers of WIA regulations, providing
   greater flexibility in serving the specific needs of local populations. These waivers may affect
   how resources are allocated or the types of employment and training services available to various
   groups.

   Between Program Years (PY) 2008 and 2010, DOL approved more than 750 state-requested
   waivers of statutory and regulatory requirements. To learn more about possible effects of waiver
   implementation, ETA has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research to conduct an evaluation
   of selected waivers approved in PY 2008 through 2010. This study includes two interim reports
   and one final report. The final report will be available late 2012.

3. **Description.** This interim report is structured as follows: Section 1 is an overview of the
   waiver program with emphasis on eight specific waivers that are the focus of this study: 1) Adult
   Dislocated Worker Transfer, 2) Local Funds for Incumbent-Worker Training as a Statewide
   Activity, 3) Rapid Response Funds for Incumbent-Worker Training as a Statewide Activity, 4)
   Employer Contribution for Customized Training, 5) Employer Reimbursement for On-the-Job
   Training, 6) Competitive Procurement for Youth Elements, 7) Youth Individual Training
Accounts, and 8) Work-flex. Section 2 provides a discussion of the study methodology; and Section 3 provides findings from this data collection, lessons learned from waiver implementation, and recommendations for improvement. Among the lessons learned are success stories that highlight the positive relations with employers and state and local areas as well as challenges faced when applying for and implementing the approved waiver. The recommendations include those that address the issues in the overall waiver application process as well as issues pertaining to specific waivers. This report should be useful to a wide range of readers including researchers, policy makers, and workforce system professionals. It contains succinct presentations of data on topics that are important to ETA and the workforce system.

Readers of the electronic version of this notice can easily access the publication on the ETA Research Database at http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm for additional information, including the full text.

4. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication as well as to download the full report as a PDF, visit the ETA Research Publication Database Web site at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm.