



**THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB 12 2003

The Honorable John Boehner  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I welcome this opportunity to support the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Successful workforce development is a function of good economic development and the two need to be tied together in order for each to reach maximum effectiveness. In the Department of Labor's reauthorization request included in the President's FY 2004 budget, the Bush Administration has called for important changes to the program, which will make services more accessible to America's workers as a result of policies that are more private sector and market-driven.

Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act also provides greater tools for America's governors. By consolidating funding streams, the Workforce Investment Act budget provides opportunities for greater efficiency in program delivery and increased flexibility for states to address their workforce development challenges. Another feature of the Workforce Investment Act is President Bush's request for \$3.6 billion to fund Personal Reemployment Accounts. These Personal Reemployment Accounts will provide unemployed individuals greater flexibility, maximum choice, and enhanced access to services most needed for rapid reentry into the labor market.

The Department of Commerce is proud to partner with the Department of Labor in linking economic development and workforce development efforts, providing a more holistic approach to addressing the needs of America's communities and America's workers.

I encourage you to join President Bush and Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao in support of reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Evans", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Donald L. Evans

cc: Members of House Education and  
the Workforce Committee

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510