



**JAN 12 2007**

Dear State Administrator:

I am pleased to inform you that 19 states have signed and become parties to the new Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) Data Sharing Agreement to date (please see the enclosed map). These states now have the ability to exchange wage record information among themselves for performance accountability purposes. By participating in the WRIS, these states are able to provide a more accurate picture of the effectiveness of their workforce investment programs through a more complete reporting of outcomes against their negotiated performance measures.

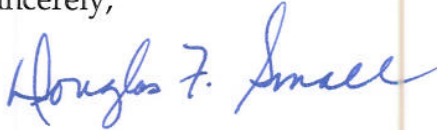
We fully expect that over the next few weeks additional states will become party to the new Agreement as delays in clearance caused by the holiday season and changes in state leadership become less of a factor. Therefore, we will extend, the opportunity for states to sign the existing Agreement through February 28, 2007.

ETA has had several discussions with state representatives, including recent calls from a group of state attorneys, about desired changes to the Agreement. Most of the suggested revisions from the state attorneys' group were policy issues, such as governance, access to the data, and the conduct of confidentiality compliance reviews. I thank everyone for the proposals for changes to the Agreement and affirm ETA's commitment to working with states to address the questions that have been identified to us. However, we continue to believe that the best approach to reaching consensus on preferred changes is through the amendment process outlined in the Agreement. After February 28, 2007, ETA will inaugurate the amendment process with the states that are party to the Agreement. When an amended Agreement is ratified by these states, it will be distributed for review and consideration for signature by states that were not party to the Agreement when the amendment process began.

I appreciate the action taken by states that have become party to the Agreement and I look forward to our continued collaboration with all states to maintain the WRIS as a vital performance management tool.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John R. Beverly, III, Administrator, Office of Performance and Technology at [beverly.john@dol.gov](mailto:beverly.john@dol.gov) or (202) 693-3420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas F. Small". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Douglas F. Small  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure