



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2022

Dear Elected Official:

For several months, the NCWorks Commission, our state workforce development board, has been studying opportunities to better align our local workforce development board system with our state's economic development system. I am writing to share the recommendations from this study with you and encourage you to use this information to help guide efforts to better serve employers and jobseekers in your own area.

The NCWorks Commission is made up of private industry leaders along with partners in education and workforce development. On March 30th, the Commission voted to approve recommendations to realign the existing service areas of local workforce boards. Along with that recommendation, the Commission has provided eight guiding principles to help local leaders in considering changes to your local workforce area. **I strongly endorse this action**, and I ask that you reexamine your current workforce board alignment and encourage you to seriously consider whether your alignment can be improved to best reflect the principles outlined by these recommendations and the needs of your communities, businesses, and jobseekers.

I ask that you review the attached document and give careful consideration to the Commission's recommendations, which are enclosed. This invitation represents an opportunity to improve upon our state's overall effectiveness in delivering workforce services, responding to the needs of businesses and jobseekers in your region. We encourage you to engage in discussion with the other elected officials within your current local area workforce development board and the surrounding counties.

Despite challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic success attracting all kinds of jobs in recent years. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is critical that we bring economic and workforce development together even more closely than in the past. Our workforce is the key driver of economic success today, and we owe it to our business community to ensure they are able to find the trained, qualified workers they need to continue that success. If you help us in this way, we will be able to bring more jobs and investment to all corners of North

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Carolina, leaving no region behind, and this alignment initiative will help keep North Carolina competitive, prosperous and growing.

My team and I look forward to collaborating with you. I encourage you to contact Chet Mottershead, Assistant Secretary of Workforce Solutions at chet.mottershead@nccommerce.com, to discuss next steps and any questions you may have. Thank you for your leadership and service to your community.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Roy Cooper

Enclosure