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December 1, 2015

Stephanie Veck
Colorado Workforce Development Council
633 17th Street, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Board of County Commissioners, Weld County, Colorado, formally requests designation as a planning region under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) per Sec 106 and §679.210 (b), (c),(d) of the proposed regulations.

This formal request is in keeping with the outcomes of the Central Planning Region discussion hosted by Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) on November 13, 2015, with County representatives from the proposed Central Planning Region under WIOA and representatives from the Colorado Workforce Development Council, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Colorado Department of Human Services. At that meeting, it was agreed that local elected officials may formally request a single county designation based on its regional needs and as authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

Weld County's regional needs of our job seekers, employers and economic development activities and resources are not addressed through the proposed Central Planning region, which currently extends from El Paso County to the Wyoming border. Weld County needs the flexibility to engage in regional planning efforts that are more conducive to effectively align workforce development activities and resources with other counties around its primary industry sectors.

- Weld County is 3,987 square miles bordered by Wyoming, Larimer, Boulder, Adams, Morgan and Logan counties. It has a population of 269,785 with a labor force of 127,731. Weld County is served by 13 public school districts, which includes numerous charter schools and ten private school education opportunities. Furthermore, the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) and Aims Community College serve as public higher education facilities.
- Historically, Weld County has been a planning region under workforce programs. As such, it has consistently partnered with other surrounding counties to address required workforce development and targeted sector initiatives to meet employer needs. Examples include the following:
 - Northern Colorado Manufacturing Partnership – Weld, Larimer
 - Health Care Sector – Weld, Larimer
 - WYCO – Weld, Larimer, Wyoming and Boulder
 - Transportation Sector – Weld, Adams
 - North Eastern Counties Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Workforce Development

- In addition, our Upstate Northern Colorado Economic Development agency participates in regional economic development efforts, as well as local efforts. Primary industry sectors in Weld County include Manufacturing, Agriculture, Energy Production, Health & Wellness and Business Services. Due to the size and diversity of Weld County, multiple opportunities exist, producing a continually growing business sector.

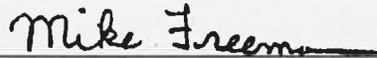
The Board understands that the Governor's formal designation of planning regions for Colorado and under WIOA will be completed in December, 2015. Weld County is requesting to be its own planning region by the Governor and under WIOA.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO



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Weld County Board of Commissioners



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Weld County Board of Commissioners



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Weld County Board of Commissioners



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Mary Freitag, Chair
Weld County Workforce Investment Board

cc. Brandy DeLange, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Don Warden, Judy Griego, Linda Perez, Bruce Barker, & Karin McDougal, Weld County