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IEDC Members Urge Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

WASHINGTON, DC (June 7, 2012) – The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC), the world’s largest independent non-profit, non-partisan membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development, in partnership with the [National Association of Workforce Boards](#), will be presenting to Congress [a letter](#) with [more than 200 signatures](#) of economic development professionals in support of reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

“Congress must understand that reauthorizing WIA and investing in America’s workers is a top priority in the economic development community,” said Jay Moon, current Chair of IEDC and President and CEO of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association. “Employers want to expand and create new jobs, but it’s impossible without a workforce that has the skills and training needed to fill them. WIA plays a critical role in training a workforce that is equipped to meet the demands of competing in an ever-evolving global economy.”

Established by Congress in 1998, WIA replaced the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) as the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities. WIA created a universal access system of One-Stop career centers, which provides training and employment services for a range of workers, including low-income adults, low-income youth, and dislocated workers. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Congress continued its support of WIA with substantial new investments.

As Congress looks to reauthorize WIA, it will have an opportunity to help ensure that our nation’s workers and businesses receive the services and support they need to go back to work and begin rebuilding our economy. Through the network of roughly 600 local workforce investment boards authorized by WIA, more than 12,000 business leaders across America participate in coordinating and developing the workforce strategies that get Americans back to work or advancing their skill level.

About IEDC:

The [International Economic Development Council](#) is the premier independent non-profit, non-partisan membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development. IEDC assists economic development professionals in creating high-quality jobs, developing vibrant communities and improving the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,100 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services, and public policy tracking. Visit www.iedconline.org to learn more.