

# County of Elk

## COMMISSIONERS

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Daniel R. Freeburg, Commissioner  
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Thomas G. Wagner, Solicitor  
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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
127 West Spring Street  
Suite C  
Titusville, PA 16354

Dear Congressman Thompson:

As Elk County Commissioners and members of the National Association of Counties (NACo), we are writing to ask you to support passage of the bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity, H.R. 803 (as amended). This legislation would reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998.

WIA is long overdue for reauthorization, as it expired in 2003. A strong streamlined workforce system will increase investments and resources for quality training and help to ensure that localities and states can continue to meet the needs of jobseekers and employers. The bipartisan WIOA bill provides the needed framework for a modernized workforce development system by maintaining the local role in system, which Elk County supports, since there have been attempts to undermine the local role.

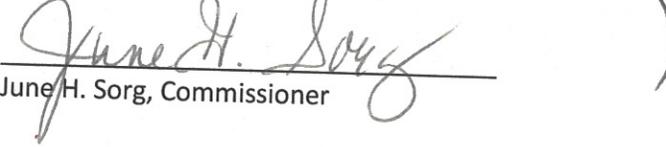
The bill also provides added flexibility for local workforce boards by reducing the overall size and allowing more training funds to be used for incumbent workers. This will help local boards build and enhance relationships with businesses and help localities meet the training needs of jobseekers and businesses. The bill would also standardize performance goals for adults and youth to determine workforce program success, which will simplify the current varied and complex measures.

In Elk County, WIA is making a real difference for both jobseekers and employers. We urge you to support the passage of WIOA by voting yes on H.R. 803 (as amended). WIOA will enhance localities' abilities to address workforce challenges in their communities and meet the training needs of workers and businesses. We hope that Elk County can count on your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Janis E. Kemmer, Chairperson

  
Daniel R. Freeburg, Commissioner

  
June H. Sorg, Commissioner

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