

**WIOA  
DESIGNATION/REDESIGNATION  
COMMENTS RECEIVED OTHER  
THAN LISTENING SESSIONS**

# BARREN RIVER

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Sharon Woods <sharon@bradd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 1:05 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Barren River LWIA Local Official Comments  
**Attachments:** Comments on Local Designation.pdf

Attached is a letter expressing the concerns of the local officials about Option 2 as presented by the Steering Committee and that the undersigned representative support Option 1.

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Sharon Woods  
WIA Associate Director  
Barren River Area Development District  
177 Graham Ave  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone: 270-781-2381  
Cell: 270-202-5007  
Fax: 270-782-6141

February 5, 2015

Governor Steve Beshear  
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

The essentially partisan and mean-spirited campaign to divide the ten-county Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) must now end. The secessionists' proposal by the City of Bowling Green and four County Judge Executives set before the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and Governor Beshear would wrest control of U.S. Department of Labor funds disbursed by the Commonwealth to Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs). The proposed four-county LWIA would effectively undercut interdependence and diminish practical synergies that the ten-county Barren River region cherishes and enjoys. After considerable argument and vitriol, the purported benefit from dividing the region remains 1) undefined, 2) inefficient and costly, and 3) contrary to the public interest.

#### **UNDEFINED BENEFIT**

The petitioners, the City of Bowling Green and the counties of Allen, Logan, Simpson and Warren, have failed to define any public purpose to be served by dividing the region. While representing "60% of the area's population, 70% of the businesses, and 74% of the jobs," the petitioners do not demonstrate how a newly-partitioned LWIA would better meet the needs of Barren River area employers and citizens.

Instead of doing so, they cite unrelated deficiencies found in the March 4, 2014 audit of the Blue Grass Area Development District (headquartered 150+ miles away in Lexington), basing their argument for dividing the region by inferring that structural similarities between the BGADD and the BRADD warrant a radical remedy without daring to allege, let alone provide evidence of, any wrongdoing by BRADD.

They continuously state in the media and in meetings that like the Bluegrass ADD, the Chief Elected Official (CEO) in the Barren River Local Workforce Investment Area (BRLWIA) is the same as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD), in an attempt to distort the actual circumstances and create a potential conflict.

For the record, neither BRADD nor the LWIA are capable of a practical or organizational conflict of interest due to the fact that the Barren River Local Officials Organization, Inc. (BRLOO) is the controlling authority under which the LWIA has operated since 1998. The CEO for the LWIA, was designated as the highest ranking officer for the BRLOO, as agreed upon through a three party Cooperative Agreement between the BRLWIB, BRLOO and the BRADD Board, on November 23, 1998.

The BRLOO is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in 1974 for the purpose of promoting the economic development of the ten county region, known as the BRADD. The BRLOO membership is comprised solely of the thirty-five (35) elected County Judge/Executives and Mayors of the BRADD.

The highest ranking officer of the BRLOO is the President. The President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer are elected by a vote of a majority of those in attendance from nominations from the floor. As prohibited by BRLOO Bylaws, no officer of BRLOO can be a current officer of the BRADD Board. Since the inception of the LWIA, no BRLOO President has ever served as the Chairman of the BRADD Board.

The President represents the BRLOO membership and acts on their direction based upon discussion and vote of its board. The appointment of LWIA private sector membership is authorized by the Board members based upon nominations from individual elected officials from each county and other members based upon nominations from the floor. The BRLOO is the fiscal agent for the BRLWIA, in accordance with the Workforce Act, but has designated the BRADD to act as the fiscal agent on their behalf due to the extensive fiscal capabilities of its staff.

The reason that the various parties chose the BRLOO President as the CEO for the region is that the varying circumstances, issues and views of the region would be represented. Ours is a democratic process that is inclusive of all and not a single community or individual. It provides an opportunity to reflect the varied makeup of the region.

In its over 40 years of regional collaboration and cooperation, the BRADD has earned an admired reputation for competently and efficiently stewarding state and federally funded programs and projects on behalf of communities who are unable to afford the resources required for grant management and project administration. In its history, BRADD has never received an audit qualification nor ever been accused of mismanagement by any authority (private, state or federal) for whom it manages funds. The counties whose workforce and economic development interests that would be set aside by the petitioners seizing two-thirds of the available funds for workforce development are the most in-need of workforce investment and the least able to afford the administration of federal funds.

The stewardship of federal training funds is the basic function of the LWIA. In present form, the Barren River LWIA has judiciously and innovatively directed its training funds to achieve an impressive 142% return on cost based on the increased earnings received by tracked participants over the past two years. Tracked participants in On the Job Training, youth work experience, and other training programs earned an average increase of \$9,600 in wages over the nine months after exiting the services.

Moreover, while the petitioners stated intent is to incredibly develop a "world class WIB" capable of meeting projected employer demands cited by consultant reports (4,500 skilled workers by 2016 and 9,000 by 2020), employers in South Central Kentucky have flourished historically by fulfilling their workforce needs on a regional basis, as evidenced by increasing commuting distances. South Central Kentucky's success to date is owed largely to its regional appeal and the operational footprint established for both economic and workforce development. When promoting the region to industry relocation and economic development prospects, the region's 2.1 million labor market population and 1.01 million available workforce are critical strengths. If so, partitioning the current regional workforce investment system and removing efficiencies currently enjoyed among ten counties to serve four undercuts the region's ability to fulfill the demands of employers.

The Barren River LWIA has delivered on its promises, and in fact shares the petitioner's ambitions to be "world class" in all respects. The Barren River LWIA's operational footprint across ten counties relies on education and training partnerships with regional school systems, Area Technology Centers, Job Corps, Western Kentucky University and Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College, etc., that are all likewise regionally focused. None of us who are responsible for workforce development on a day-to-day basis would consider altering the basic regional structures and partnerships in place without being presented with a wildly better alternative and credible assurances such an alternative, if attractive, can be achieved. Though the petitioners have not yet presented either a superior alternative program or the methods it might employ to conduct it, they have somehow become persuaded to wager the documented success of the present BRLWIA.

### **INEFFICIENT AND COSTLY**

If approved, the proposed four-county LWIA would receive two-thirds of the scarce Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds available to the ten county region. The partitioned six counties remaining would thus receive just about \$500,000. The staff experience and administrative efficiencies currently enjoyed for 40 years would be destroyed. While the petitioners have not explained how they would operate a newly-formed nonprofit corporation or how it would achieve its goals, they have made false issue over the Barren River LWIA's allocation of indirect on federal grants.

BRADD manages an annual operating budget of almost \$8 million of federal, state and local funds that supports around 60 individual programs. With over forty years of managing federal and state programs and funds in accordance with their standards, the BRADD has demonstrated its experience and financial integrity to undertake the fiscal management of the WIOA program. BRADD follows OMB Circular A-87 requirements (the Super Circular will be applicable beginning July 1, 2015) concerning eligible and ineligible costs and the methodology of charging indirect costs. Indirect costs are legitimate costs of operation but every possible effort is taken to direct charge costs in order to minimize indirect charges.

The petitioners imply without explanation that BRADD has an incentive to misallocate WIOA funds to support BRADD overhead, when in fact the opposite is true. Scarce WIOA funds and the programs and services operated thereto benefit from an "economy of scale" by sharing overhead with 60 other programs and financial management that includes two Certified Public Accountants. While substantial in the BRADD portfolio, WIOA funds represent 35% of the \$8 million funds under BRADD management. It is doubtful that the proposed four-county LWIA will ever approach such efficiencies unless it intends to subcontract administration of itself to a third-party (in the exact same way that BRLOO and the BRLWIA Board chose BRADD to be Fiscal Agent.)

Salaries and fringe benefits allocated to WIOA programs have remained essentially constant from 2010-2013, while training expenditures and programs vary significantly year-to-year. The recovering economy has the effect of reducing training expenditures in recent quarters, whereas during the recession training expenditures and stimulus funding increased. It is not appropriate to characterize the shift now occurring from training the unemployed in a recession to providing businesses workforce investment services in a span of relative prosperity as "mismanagement" or malfeasance.

New opportunities presented by passage of the 2014 WIOA reforms create a stronger emphasis on outcomes versus inputs that we embrace. In just the last six months of 2014, for instance, a total of 7,353 services were performed benefitting 578 individuals. Six full-time equivalent positions of 12

funded by WIOA are stationed 4.5 days a week at the region's two "One Stop" Career Centers as required by the current regulations for partner participation at the centers. The petitioners criticize BRADD for failing to dispense monies when training requirements had dropped dramatically and job placements increased. Though we are not sure who the petitioners would have handed the money to or for what purpose, the Barren River LWIA sees the improving economy as an opportunity to focus unspent WIOA funds on proactive region-wide skills development in partnership with new and existing industry. The WIOA reforms and the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board have encouraged this more strategic approach.

### **CONTRARY TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

Balkanization of the region's workforce investment system will cause statutory obligations to be ignored and diminish operational effectiveness. In the ten county BRADD region, the two "One Stop" Career Centers, located in Warren and Barren counties, operate together with statutorily-mandated partners, who would consequently be forced to either choose between partitioned LWIAs proposed by the petitioners, increase budgets to provide for duplication of services, or reduce their involvement in both. The collateral cost impacts on "innocent" parties who partner with each other in the LWIA for the benefit of all concerned deserve due consideration, regardless of their stated preference in this matter.

Similarly, the extensive collaboration that is difficult to achieve between education and training partners, LWIAs and employers under the best of circumstances, will be needlessly complicated. Most if not all of the affiliated organizations that comprise a "workforce investment system" in our region have a regional service mandate or have aligned their missions regionally. Under the petitioners' scheme, needless amounts of time will be consumed by public servants and private sector volunteers attending duplicative meetings and crisscrossing the territory at taxpayer expense.

When it comes to workforce development, two governments are not better than one. While the petitioners express the desire to better serve the needs of business, by splitting the planning regions and the long established boundaries, workforce partners will be forced to split their service areas and disrupt the delivery of services. Employers that have locations in two different regions may not have access to the same services. Potential new workers may not be eligible for some services, such as OJT, because the employer involved was snapped out of the eligible region. Companies may discover that a four-county LWIA is ineligible for new programs under WIOA that typically require the socio-economic diversity characterized by our ten-county region.

### **MOVING AHEAD**

Even a meritless proposal can have the virtue of sincerity. For our part, we pledge to constantly seek the input and advice of the petitioners regardless of any animosity stirred up by their proposal. The campaign to divide the BRLWIA has generated more public interest the workforce investment system than would otherwise be possible, and forced everyone concerned to re-examine the essence of regionalism. Regionalism is not merely a buzz-word; it is a deliberate process of capitalizing on practical synergies. It is not for emotional or political reasons that we believe our ten-country region is best served by a single LWIA. Rather, faced with the possibility of a fractured BRLWIA, we have taken stock of our purpose and how each community would be adversely affected by the proposed change.

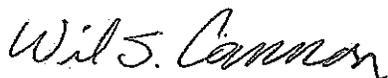
The region's officials and citizens, can view this divisive exercise as an opportunity to reunite. With the implementation of WIOA reforms, the BRADD LWIA will have greater flexibility to serve employers' needs, and retain the regional synergies to do our job even better.

Sincerely,

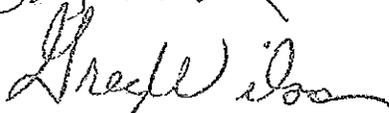
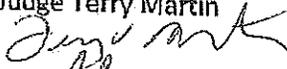


Judge David Fields

Judge Will Canon



Judge Terry Martin



Judge Greg Wilson

Judge Tommy Willett



Judge Michael Hale



**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Timmy <t.waddell@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:57 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** BRADD WIA

My name is Timmy Waddell, I was a 12 year employee of SKF, and lost my job due to NAFTA, thanks to BRADD and the WIA department, I got the opportunity to get an associate degree. That was a life long dream that I had to get my degree. Since my graduation I have worked full time with no layoffs. I cannot say enough about the GREAT work they are doing. Timmy Waddell

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Wilson, Bridget E - Leitchfield, KY <Bridget.E.Wilson@usps.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 10:17 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** BRADD closing

I'm not for sure what you elected officials are thinking about. It can't be the people who actually vote for you because you don't seem to helping them at all. There have been so many closings of businesses that have been here for years. The employees of these factories thought they had a stable job, now they have nothing but the hope that BRADD can help them get a new job or a better education in the hopes of getting a new job. I have seen first hand how BRADD has helped people who have lost a job go back to school and train for a new career and how they have helped find work for people. In these hard times I think it would be foolish to take something away that has done so much good for our community and state. Thank you for your consideration in reading this statement and please let BRADD keep helping our community.

Bridget Wilson

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Nick Scott <hilltopperswku@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Barren River WIOA

I believe that the BRADD WIOA department has done an exceptional job serving our community. With the many facets of the WIOA department programs a diverse range of citizens can be reached whether it be youth, adults, or people who have lost their jobs. This allows doors to be open to people that would not normally have the opportunity to start their careers in the right direction.

I believe that splitting up the ten county region would be a disservice to the citizens of those counties. The BRADD WIOA department already understands the rules and regulations of WIOA funds and can provide fast and effective service to the citizens within this region. If the region was to be split then the workers within the new region will have to be trained and therefore will delay the citizens the opportunity to start the program. This would in turn deny citizens a better opportunity that would have already been provided for them if the region was not split up. Most people would start looking for other opportunities that would not benefit them as much as going through WIOA programs.

Thanks

Nick Scott

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Moody, Holi, B <holi.moody542@topper.wku.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 4:14 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** BRADD center

The BRADD center helped me with tuition that I was unable to afford. I already have a lot of loans and I just started nursing school, my parents don't have the money to help me and nursing school tuition and books are very expensive, without BRADD helping me, I would not have the money for tuition or my books and they have lifted a TREMENDOUS weight off my shoulders, it is an amazing program and the workers there are so nice and so helpful. The whole program is amazingly helpful and I don't know where I would be without it!

Sent from my iPhone

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Ashley <ashley.berry88@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 7:01 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation

This program has gave me the chance at a career. Kymber Lamers has helped me tremendously and I'm so grateful for her help. With this opportunity I will have the chance to make a better life for myself and my future family. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Chris Fitzhugh <cdfitz@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 8:35 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Comments on B.R.A.D.D.

Hello, my name is Chris Fitzhugh and I am a past B.R.A.D.D. client. If it were not for this organization helping me go back to school and getting a degree after I lost my job I don't know where I would be right now. It was through my counselor, Kymber Lamers, that I was able to go to school and get a degree and now have a job in something I love doing. Mrs. Lamers was nothing but courteous and kind to me the entire time and I don't think I would be in as good a position as I am in now if it weren't for her and B.R.A.D.D. The people at this organization do excellent work and it would be a shame to see it taken away because they really do help those of us who are unfortunate enough to be put in a bad position through no fault of their own. Again, I would not be starting a great career doing something I love to do if it were not for them. Thank you for your time and attention. Chris Fitzhugh.

## **Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Ansted, Kevin, F <kevin.ansted340@topper.wku.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 07, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Cc:** klammers@bradd.org  
**Subject:** What BRADD has done for me

First let me give you my back round. I am 54 years old, retired from the Ohio Air National Guard and Married 32 years. My Wife and two children have Muscular Dystrophy. Lost three jobs as an automotive engineer between 2007 and 2008. I collected unemployment and heard about BRADD for educational assistance. I went to BRADD for support to go back to school. I initially declined because I was take my prerequisites for nursing school and wanted to save this resource till I was accepted in the Nursing program at WKU. Once I was accepted into the program I got the extra help I needed to move to another career. \$1500 for each of the four semesters. But the support I received goes beyond the money. Nursing school is a very difficult curriculum and passing requirement is 77%, not 70%. I failed second semester and thought for sure I would lose this resource. Kymber Lamers supported me and got my \$1500 hundred dollars for the third semester. Due to medical requirements I had to take a medical withdrawal the third semester. Again I was sure I would lose the support from BRADD. I didn't. Kymber again came in and supported me for my fourth semester and even went beyond that. At the end of my third semester in spring of 2014 she called me and told me there were funds for summer courses. FANTASTIC! Because of BRADD and Kymber Lamers I was able to knock out a course in the summer and I graduated in December 2014. The key to my graduation was the summer course I took in 2014. Why? Because forth semester was the toughest and I only had 3 years to complete the nursing program or start again. If I would have not gotten the support for summer of 2014 I would have not graduated from WKU with the additional course I would have had to take in the fall of 2014.

Kentucky has great resources for me and my family..Michelle P., Hart Supported Living Grant, Camp Happy Days here in Bowling Green and of course BRADD. Because of the medical needs I continue to keep looking for support because my families on going needs and to move forward.

I HAVE MOVED FORWARD IN A NEW CAREER WITH THE SUPPORT OF KYMBER AND BRADD! Its all about moving forward and resources such as BRADD allow people like myself to do exactly that.

I now have my Provisional Registered Nurse License (Number 20150434) and Just got a job 2/5/2015 at Signature Health in Bowling Green. I will be taking my RN exam in March 2015.

Kymber Lamers and BRADD made the difference in my graduation.

Feel free to contact me at 270-535-5323.

Thank You,

Kevin Ansted

**REGISTERED NURSE APPLICANT**

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Kristin Eller <keller@daymarcollege.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Potential Changes to Workforce Regions

Dear Workforce Investment Board and Committee Members:

Recently, it was brought to my attention that there is the potential in the Commonwealth for the workforce regions to be redrawn and redesignated based on what is perceived to be a lack of efficiency within the WIOA programs. I implore you to please reconsider restructuring the programs in order to save money. As someone who works closely with our local BRADD representatives in order to better help those whose jobs have been outsourced and/or eliminated, I can say without reservation that our local office goes above and beyond their pay grade to make sure each of their clients gets the service they deserve and that is provided by the training programs currently offered through WIOA. To lose anyone from such a knowledgeable and helpful staff would be tragic, and would prevent many citizens within the Commonwealth of Kentucky from being successful in training programs in order to become employed in a career rather than another job from which they will be let go, continuing the cycle of unemployment in the state. The staff at the local BRADD office works closely with us to help make sure their clients not only train for a new career but can be placed in it, which, in the long run, SAVES money for the state by keeping them off of unemployment in the future, and isn't saving money and lowering the unemployment rate the ultimate goal?

Best regards,

**Kristin Eller**  
Campus Dean

**Daymar College**  
2421 Fitzgerald-Industrial Drive  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Office | (270) 843-6750  
Email | [keller@daymarcollege.edu](mailto:keller@daymarcollege.edu)



## Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)

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**From:** GRANSEE, FREDERICK <fg250n@att.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:06 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Feedback

I want to share with you that I have actually utilized this program myself. I actually worked with whom I consider to be one of the greatest persons I have ever had the opportunity to meet and work with, and that person is Tonya Mudd. She was very knowledgeable about the program, and really took the time to sit down with me and show how this could work for me, especially when I did not think I would ever be eligible for a program such as this. Between the continued support and encouragement that she offered, as well as the encouragement of the entire organization, such as others like Pam, and many others, I felt like I had my own cheerleading section to achieve my educational goals. Due to the positive encouragement and self-determination, I did successfully graduate with a degree, and now I am enrolled again, working on finishing my Bachelor's Degree, which I will complete in December 2015. This program and institution of Bowling Green, is an asset to the community, it truly allows people to have a second chance at better themselves, when they think that there are no other options for them. This retraining program with BRADD is a benchmark in the community and I personally know several business owners and employers that look for students that have completed this program to hire for their organizations.

To have this location and this program shut down would be a huge disservice to future students and the community.

Fred Gransee

***Fred Gransee***  
*Account Manager*

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*AT&T Mobility - Wireless Accessory Group*  
1055 Lenox Park Blvd Ste 4B57 | Atlanta, GA 30319  
O: 404-986-8559 | C: 404.790-4574 | [fg250n@att.com](mailto:fg250n@att.com)

**Rethink Possible** 

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# BLUEGRASS

## Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)

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**From:** David Duttlinger <dduttlinger@bgadd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 12:00 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Comments on Local Area Designation and Redesignation

Dear KWIB Steering Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for this important opportunity in Kentucky. Let me begin by stating that my views are directly in line with the resolutions that were submitted by the Kentucky Council of ADDs and by the Bluegrass Area Development District Board. Both of which stated that they believed that the existing workforce boundaries should remain intact, as originally envisioned because of the strategic advantages associated with aligning the planning region, the economic development region, the aging service region, and the workforce area for the purpose of achieving economies of scale and optimal efficiency for economic development opportunities and implementation of public policy.

The Bluegrass Workforce Area is in direct alignment with the Bluegrass Area Development District service area for our region, an arrangement that has existed since 1977 with minimal to zero deficiencies in meeting performance objectives. In addition, to performance objectives, it is my understanding from the public meeting that sustained fiscal integrity will also be considered. Just as who the fiscal agent is should not be considered in defining the local area, I also hope that any question about fiscal integrity will also not be considered in setting the workforce boundaries. But if it is, please take time to review the facts.

The Auditor of Public Accounts conducted an examination, not an audit of the Bluegrass ADD. The report which was released in March 2014, cited eight findings and recommended corrective actions. By July of 2014, the Bluegrass ADD Board of Directors had addressed and corrected seven of the eight findings. The eighth finding required the completion of a new Interlocal Agreement between the local elected officials. This agreement was signed by 16 of the 17 jurisdictions in the Bluegrass Workforce Area. Without the signature of the Mayor of Lexington the Interlocal Agreement cannot be completed and approved. Although multiple attempts have been made to work with the Mayor of Lexington, he has been unwilling to participate and unfortunately has also not offered any alternatives or suggested revisions except for challenging the authority of the new interlocal and insisting that the old flawed interlocal agreement continue to be recognized as the governing document.

Additionally, the Bluegrass ADD has been audited annually since 1975 by a private CPA firm. The last five audits have all been returned with a clean financial audit, no findings and no material weaknesses. The Bluegrass ADD has also participated in additional federal audits, state monitorings and have partnered with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet on a robust corrective action plan.

But beyond questions of fiscal integrity, why should the Bluegrass Workforce Area remain intact as shown as Local Option 1?

It begins with the Bluegrass ADD Mission Statement:

**Enhance the economy of our communities through  
Planning to maximize resources,  
Projects to promote development, and  
Programs to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the region**

The Bluegrass ADD does this by simply organizing around three departments –  
Planning through our Community Planning Department.  
Projects – through our Workforce staff

Programs – through our Aging services.

I've been asked by fellow ADD Directors, reporters, staff and newly elected officials – Why these three programs? Our governing statutes, KRS 147A, actually make no restriction on the use, services or business of Area Development Districts, except for the restriction of education. So what is so inherently intrinsic about organizing around these three departments and why are they vital to the success of our organization? One word – **synergy**.

Community Planning and Workforce – It makes sense to have the two departments that write the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the Region's Workplan – this is necessary because we don't want to be attracting gadget makers to Kentucky while at the same time we are training people to make widgets. It also doesn't make sense for us to develop and prioritize the region's transportation plans, without considering commuter patterns that affect our workforce.

What about Aging Service and Workforce – baby boomers are working longer. We must capture and retain them as an integral part of our workforce, but to do that we must provide them with the incumbent worker training necessary to keep them working. We have done this with recent programs like our medical device training symposium which will help retrain nurses, a field with critical shortfalls.

And there are connections between Community Planning and Aging – we must plan for livable communities, we have to make our communities pedestrian friendly, we must analyze our housing needs, and we must even plan for simple things like sign retroreflectivity so that as we get older, we will still be able to recognize and see road signs.

So beyond synergy what else ties the Bluegrass Workforce Area Together?

Is it the **KY River** – a watershed that serves about 80% of our Region and served for over a 100-years as the center of commerce for our state and was one of the key factors for the selection of Frankfort as our State Capital.

Is it **Transportation** – we sit at the cross roads, the intersection of two of the most important highways in the United States – I-75 and I-64. 50% of the U.S. population is located within 500-miles (6-hr drive) of Lexington. \$417 Billion dollars of freight crosses the Clay Ferry Bridge annually.

Or maybe **Education** – Our region is home to the state's Flagship University – but that's only where it begins. We also have Eastern Kentucky University, Centre College in Danville, Transylvania in Lexington, Berea College, Asbury University, Georgetown College, Kentucky State University, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Midway College, Sullivan University. And tying them all together, BGADD has worked with Bluegrass Tomorrow to create the Higher Education Symposium – a university-center sharing model, similar to Oxford University, to include faculty exchange, academic program course sharing, transfer of credits, library sharing and more. Other goals include the formation of an academic chairs academy, teacher training at the secondary level to credential more educators to teach college level courses, collaborative discussion with superintendents, business leaders and economic development professionals, research and asset mapping of academic programs and resources available, collaboration on student professional readiness and development, and collaboration on international study abroad opportunities.

Maybe it is **healthcare** – centered with the University of Kentucky Medical Center, but heavily supported by Central Baptist, and Saint Joseph Medical Centers. Why is this important – because our rural hospitals are closing. We have lost the Nicholas County Hospital. But also because of the partnership surrounding healthcare what is created out of the synergy associated between workforce, aging and community planning. Bluegrass ADD developed and was recognized with a national innovation award for creating the Transition Care Program (TLC).

Or is it **Economic Dependence** – Cluster analysis conducted using data from the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) indicate that there are regional advantages associated with simultaneously investing in the 17-county Bluegrass Region both for the purpose of developing the economy and the workforce. The cluster concept was first proposed in 1990 by Dr. Michael Porter. Clusters are considered important to regional economies as they create

regional growth and competitive advantages. Due to the improved efficiency of interconnectedness and geographic concentration, clusters offer businesses the following advantages:

- Economies of scale
- Increased productivity
- Lower transaction costs
- Increased information exchange
- Encouragement of innovation
- Stimulate for the creation of new companies (spinoffs)
- Better access to employees, buyer and supplies

So what does the data show us? Econometric analysis of data such as the location quotient, the shift-share analysis, national share component and industry share component – prove that there is a regional advantage that cannot be explained by either general economic conditions or industrial trends but can only be explained by regional advantages associated with working together.

And what does the data say about our 17-county Workforce Area? It says that there are seven major clusters :

1. Automobile Manufacturing,
2. Software and computer services,
3. Healthcare,
4. Equine
5. Tourism
6. Post-Secondary Education, and
7. Metal and Machinery Manufacturing

That quantitatively attribute their success to regionalism.

So which factors draw us together – is it the Kentucky River, Transportation, Education, Healthcare, or Regional Economic Advantages? It is all of them. And none of them would exist on their own or through a measure of the sum that would be equal to less than the unity currently achieved.

After my public comments on February 4<sup>th</sup>, we heard a lot of private sector, Commerce Lexington support for Local Option 2. They advocate for this position for the hopes of increasing a new business line, a new revenue stream and to re-open the Lexington Mayor's Training Center. The Mayor's Training Center is a failed social experiment that is not worth repeating. One year the center's cost of placement was as high as \$238,000 to place four persons. Historically, during its five years of operation, the Mayor's Training center average cost for job training and placement was around \$38,000+, as compared to the service cost from the Bluegrass ADD with an average cost of \$800 placement per person. We do not need to move backwards in the administration of this vital program.

It was clear from the APA report and subsequent communications with state leadership that the local elected officials needed to become more involved and engaged in the Bluegrass workforce investment area. The local elected officials answered this call to duty and attended education seminars, met with the Governor and organized themselves. Commerce Lexington and LFUCG fail to recognize that the intent of the federal law is to create a partnership between the local elected officials and the business leaders. Their request to succeed from the region will do nothing but create an impenetrable divide throughout the region.

I believe that effective workforce development happens when it is approached regionally and not when one person puts himself or herself above and beyond the whole. The successful collaboration between the elected officials and the private sector in Central Kentucky, in keeping with the rules and regulations required by the Workforce Act, will create a productive workforce environment and real results for everyone.

So in summary, my request to the Governor, the Cabinet and the KWIB Steering Committee is to select Local Option 1. With Option 2 you lose the integrity of the region, with the large regional approach you lose the ability to deliver services, the participation of the local elected officials and in general the ability to govern. We must not allow this

precious opportunity to be solely directed towards training Lexington's workforce for Lexington. Our goal must be to train the entire workforce, big counties and small counties alike, to work in Lexington, in the Bluegrass Region and in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

**David Duttlinger, P.E., MPA**

Executive Director

Bluegrass Area Development District

699 Perimeter Drive

Lexington KY 40517

Phone: 859-269-8021, ext. 272

Cell: 859-489-4921

Fax: 859-269-7917

email: [dduttlinger@bgadd.org](mailto:dduttlinger@bgadd.org)

EKCEP

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Owen Grise <ogrise@ekcep.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 5:23 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Comments from Knox County Judge-Executive regarding EKCEP Local Area

Knox County Judge-Executive J.M. Hall has had some difficulty with his emails to this address being returned, and asked me to forward the below message to you for him.

Thank you,  
Owen Grise

---

*Owen Grise  
Deputy Director  
EKCEP, Inc.  
412 Roy Campbell Drive, Suite 100  
Hazard, KY 41701  
[www.ekcep.org](http://www.ekcep.org)*

Forwarded Message:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am so sorry I cannot attend your meeting on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.

But I am well pleased with our EKCEP/KCEOC Workforce Services Program. I feel our county has been provided with many workforce Services and I personally don't want to see any changes made in the Programs. I am asking that the workforce services being offered to our county stay in the EKCEP service area. This program helps my county citizens daily and I greatly appreciate that.

Thank you

J. M. Hall

Knox County Judge Executive



COUNTY OF LESLIE  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE  
LESLIE COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
22010 MAIN STREET  
P O BOX 619  
HYDEN, KENTUCKY 41749  
(606) 672-3200 Phone  
(606) 672-7373 Fax

JIMMY SIZEMORE  
COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

RUSSELL BROCK  
MAGISTRATE DISTRICT (1)  
KENNETH F. SMITH  
MAGISTRATE DISTRICT (2)  
BONNELI BENTLEY  
MAGISTRATE DISTRICT (3)  
BROWN SIZEMORE  
MAGISTRATE DISTRICT (4)  
JAMES LEWIS

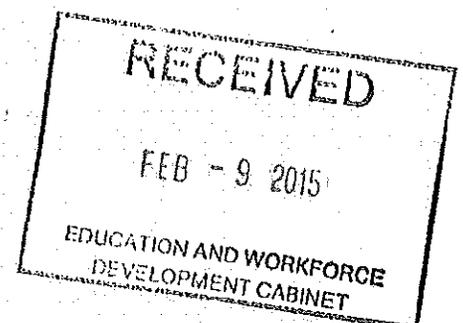
February 5, 2015  
Kentucky Workforce Investment Board  
500 Metro Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Chair, KWIB

I am the Judge/Executive of Leslie County and wish to submit my comments on the designation and/or re-designation of the local workforce areas. Our county has been part of the EKCEP designated area since the areas were originally designated. EKCEP Workforce Board and their subcontractors have provided valuable service to those who have needed employment training and education. It has been a concentrated effort of all the twenty-three county service area. It has been effective and efficient as a unified area. I sincerely hope that the KWIB maintains the entire present EKCEP area as a re-designated local workforce area. It makes no sense to change an area that is satisfied with its performance. Removing any counties from our area I feel would be very disruptive to the delivery of services to the entire area.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Sizemore  
County Judge Executive



**JACKSON COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE  
SHANE GABBARD**

February 2, 2015

Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

500 Metro Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Capital Plaza Tower

Frankfort, Ky 40601

Dear Chair, KWIB

I am the Judge Executive of Jackson County and wish to submit my comments on the designation and/or re-designation of the local workforce areas. Our county has been part of the EKCEP designated area since the areas were originally designated. EKCEP Workforce Board and their subcontractors have provided valuable service to those who have needed employment training and education. It has been a concentrated effort of all the twenty-three county service area. It has been effective and efficient as a unified area. I sincerely hope that the KWIB maintains the entire present EKCEP areas as a re-designated local workforce area. It makes no sense to change an area that is satisfied with its performance. Removing any counties from our area I feel would be very disruptive to the delivery of services to the entire area.

Sincerely,



Shane Gabbard  
Jackson Co. Judge Executive

**RECEIVED**

FEB - 5 2015

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT CABINET**

PO BOX 175  
MCKEE, KY 40447

Phone: 606-287-8562  
Fax: 606-287-7190  
E-mail: jcjudge@prtenet.org

*Joe L. Asher*  
*Clay County Judge Executive*



*102 Richmond Road*  
*Suite #201*  
*Manchester, Kentucky 40962*

*Telephone: (606) 598-2071*  
*Fax: (606) 598-7849*

February 2, 2015

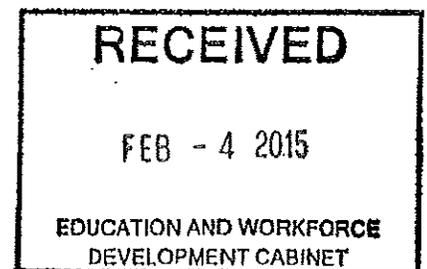
Kentucky Workforce Investment Board  
500 Metro Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, KY 40601

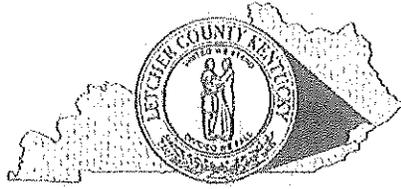
Dear Chair, KWIB

I am the Judge/Executive of Clay County and wish to submit my comments on the designation and /or re-designation of the local workforce areas. Our county has been part of the EKCEP designated area since the areas were original designated. EKCEP Workforce Board and their subcontractors have provided valuable service to those who have needed employment training and education. It has been a concentrated effort of all the twenty-three county service area. It has been effective and efficient as a unified area. I sincerely hope that the KWIB maintains the entire present EKCEP area as a re-designated local workforce area. It makes no sense to change an area that is satisfied with its performance. Removing any counties from our area I feel would be very disruptive to the delivery of services to the entire area.

Sincerely,

*Joe L. Asher*  
Joe L. Asher  
Clay County Judge/Executive





## Letcher County Fiscal Court

JIM WARD, COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

156 MAIN STREET • SUITE 107 • WHITESBURG, KENTUCKY 41858 • PHONE: 606-633-2129 • FAX: 606-633-7105

February 2, 2015

Kentucky Workforce Investment Board  
500 Metro Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Chair, KWIB

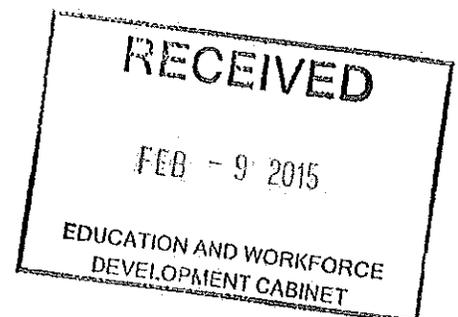
I am the Judge/Executive of Letcher County and I would like to submit my comments in support of the re-designation of Eastern Kentucky C.E.P. as the local workforce area for Eastern Kentucky. Our county has been a part of Eastern Kentucky C.E.P. (EKCEP) Local Workforce Area since local areas were first designated. The EKCEP Workforce Investment Board, its staff and its subcontractors have provided valuable service to area residents who have needed assistance with employment, training, and education, and to area businesses that have needed assistance finding and developing a qualified workforce. EKCEP has collaborated with agencies and institutions across the entire 23-county region in a concentrated effort to improve the economy and quality of life in eastern Kentucky.

I sincerely hope the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and the Governor will re-designate EKCEP as a local workforce area. It makes no sense to change an area that is effective, productive, and respected by its constituents.

Sincerely,

Jim Ward,  
Letcher County Judge/Executive

hla



# Commonwealth of Kentucky

702 CAPITAL AVENUE  
CAPITOL ANNEX 252  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
502-564-8100, x646  
MESSAGE LINE 800-372-7181



30TH SENATE DISTRICT

brandon.smith@lrc.ky.gov

BRANDON SMITH  
STATE SENATOR

February 5, 2015

Kentucky Workforce Investment Board  
500 Metro Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear KWIB Board Chairman Holmes:

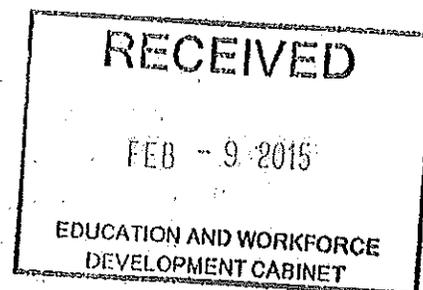
I am the State Senator for the 30th District and I would like to submit my comments in support of the re-designation of Eastern Kentucky C.E.P. as the local workforce area for eastern Kentucky. The EKCEP Workforce Investment Board, its staff, and its subcontractors have provided valuable service to my district, helping both residents who have needed assistance with employment, training, and education, and businesses that have needed assistance finding and developing a qualified workforce. EKCEP has collaborated with agencies and institutions across its entire 23-county region in a concentrated effort to improve the economy and quality of life in eastern Kentucky.

I sincerely hope the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and the Governor will re-designate EKCEP as a local workforce area. It makes no sense to change an area that is effective, productive, and respected by its constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon A. Smith".

Brandon Smith  
State Senator



TENCO

My comment is regarding the Regional Area as proposed by the Steering Committee. I have concerns in dividing the state into three large regional areas. I completely support coordinating and collaborating with other local areas in order to ensure great success for our customers – both individuals and business. However, as a local area Director for very rural and small counties, I am greatly concerned that the majority of my counties will be forgotten, simply fall between the cracks. These are counties who have had to fight for recognition, additional funding, and services when in direct competition with larger areas. These county representatives support the TENCO workforce area because we ensure even the smallest, most rural county receives our attention. I understand that the Regional Area is not, at least for the first two years, to take the place of the local area. However, in reading WIOA, Chapter 2, Section 106 (6)(c), the local boards and chief elected officials of such large planning regions will have a huge challenge engaging in a regional planning process that results in: a regional plan, regional service strategies, development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand sectors/occupations for the region, collection and analysis of labor market information, establishment of administrative cost arrangements, coordination of transportation and support services, coordination of with regional economic development, and development of a plan on how the region will negotiate and reach agreement on performance. It is difficult to get these things accomplished in a small local area. I can only imagine the difficulty we will face as we try to incorporate all of these things with other local areas that are very different from us – different sector initiatives, different performance expectations, and different labor markets in general.

I support the local area being the regional area. We were divided into our local areas because of the similarities, which allow us to develop projects, sector strategies and business services that are conducive to all of the counties in our area. I believe that the community and business need should direct the workforce board in the projects that cross boundaries, regardless of that boundary being a state, workforce area, or county line. I feel strongly about utilizing our resources wisely and supporting projects that cross those boundaries, but it shouldn't be "forced" by a regional plan that encompasses such a large area as proposed. Basically, by approving the plans as proposed, the boundaries are still there, they've just been moved. Allowing the local areas to remain as the regional area would allow us to do what is in the best interest of the counties, residents, and businesses we are here to serve. Having a local and a regional area will only add an extra layer of planning that will be cumbersome and time consuming which will prevent us from providing the individualized attention to all counties – big or small.

Denise Dials  
TENCO Workforce Development Director

## **Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Vicki Steigleder <chamber@maysvilleky.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 9:56 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Comment regarding redesignation proposal

I am not in favor of the proposed WIOA region, it would be too large. Mason County, a part of TENCO, and the Buffalo Trace ADD are made up of small communities and my concern is that they would get lost, or would lose any identity they have. The proposed region of TENCO, EKCEP and Cumberland is too large geographically.

Mason County is not an ARC county, and that already keeps us from being a part of the SOAR initiative. We are already not a part of the State's extra focus for assistance. Mason County has been fortunate and we have had some expansions but we need more to support our region. I am afraid that Mason County would be overlooked as we do not have significant problems.

I am a member of TENCO's Business Services Team. It is very difficult to get the members of this team together for team meetings, I can't imagine what meetings will be like if we increased the size.

I am fully in favor of working regionally and try to promote that in our area. But, a region needs to have many things in common. The proposed region has many differences, whose would be addressed? Which would take priority?

Mason County is considered part of Northern Kentucky in other Kentucky regions such as Tourism. Our natural inclination tends towards Northern Kentucky although that really isn't a good fit either. They are mainly a metropolitan area while Mason County and surrounding counties are rural.

Please do not make any hasty decisions. If the regions do not need to be formed for 1 ½ years, take that time and make the best decision for all counties represented.

Thank you for your time.

**Vicki Steigleder**  
*Executive Director*

**Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce**  
201 E. Third Street, Maysville, KY 41056  
606-564-5534  
606-584-0987 cell

***Like us on Facebook***



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)

---

**From:** Daniel J. Connell <d.connell@moreheadstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 10:42 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Regional and Local Area Designation and Redesignation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the regional and local area designation and redesignation. You are to be commended for the openness and transparency of this process. You have a difficult task and thank you for your willingness to undertaking it.

I am a current board member from the TENCO WIB and have been involved with TENCO for several years. Each of the three districts (TENCO, EKCEP and Cumberlands) that are proposed to join together to form the Eastern region are very different. Each district has different businesses, labor markets, sectors, and unemployment issues. There is not a lot of commonality across these three areas. TENCO is the smallest of the three and I am concerned that the ten counties will be neglected if they are combined with EKCEP and Cumberlands. The needs are so different in the other two areas that our ten counties will be left out and receive only a fraction of the funds and services needed.

Although the initial formation for the regional concept is for planning and the local areas will continue to function, I am concerned that planning will become implementation. If regional planning includes establishing administrative cost arrangements, service strategies, and sector strategies and negotiating regional performance goals, planning quickly become administration. Because of the differences in the three local areas, I am concerned that our ten counties will be lost. Some of the same reasons that make it difficult to coordinate services across state lines apply to combining services across local areas that do not have much in common.

This does not preclude local WIBs from collaborating on projects that are beneficial to all local areas. Some of this is happening now and more collaboration should be encouraged, but not forced.

You may also want to consider including Carter, Elliott, Morgan and Menifee counties in the TENCO area. Most of the people in these counties travel to Boyd, Greenup, Montgomery, or Rowan counties in the TENCO area for employment, shopping, medical care and services. With this expansion the TENCO area could be designated as a region itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I wish you well in this process. Regardless of the outcome I remain committed to meeting the goals of WIOA and moving Kentucky forward.

Dan Connell

TENCO WIB Board Member

# WEST KENTUCKY



February 3, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At the request of Shelia Clark, I attended the information session in Hopkinsville on the new Workforce initiative and the designation of Local Workforce Areas and Economic Development Regions. Serving as an ex-officio member of the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, I represent Murray State University and higher education on the board. I have been actively involved with the WKWIB since 2007. MSU is the only regional state public university in the WKWIB region. As Executive Director of Regional Outreach for MSU, I work directly with community leaders in our 18 counties' service region in far west Kentucky and have prior experience working with employers in the same region as the Assistant Director of Career Service at MSU.

It is my opinion based on the wonderful working relationship MSU has experienced in the past with the WKWIB staff, county leadership and other community colleges represented in our area that no changes should be made to the current structure at this time. The 17 counties of far west Kentucky currently make up the one of the largest with 2 large area development districts and working together effectively to accomplish the goals put forth by the WIOA. The geographic area is sufficiently large enough to allow for economies of scale, yet small enough to be responsive to the workforce needs. I see no advantage in changing this designation.

Regarding Economic Regions— I would not favor Option 3, the only option provided for Economic Development Regions. Adding one more new arbitrary geographic boundary and calling it an Economic Region makes no sense. The counties west of BRADD, even the most eastern county, Todd; are much closer aligned in trade patterns to Clarksville, TN than to Bowling Green. If you combine all those counties (including two major universities) and try to get them to work together as a region, it will stall our progress and be most difficult to manage in addressing the Regional requirements. Again in my opinion, the minimal cost savings is not worth the loss in productivity. WKWIB is a perfect development region and has proven success; therefore, it does not need to be combined with any other counties across the state for an Economic Development Region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment!

Gina S. Winchester  
Executive Director

## **Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Belinda Foster <bctreasure@brtc.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** respectively submitted by the Ballard County Judge Executive

**From:** MaryAnne Medlock  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 11:19 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Beck-Walker; 'Clark, Sheila (Pennyrile ADD)'  
**Subject:** Draft Comments for JE Viniard

Thank you for the opportunity to send my comments upon the recommendation by the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board's WIOA Steering Committee to create three Economic Development Regions. I'm sorry that wasn't able to attend the Listening Session this week. I understand the new WIOA requires the development of such regions, but I do not understand the Steering Committee's proposed overlay requiring multiple local workforce areas to work together in order to coordinate strategies, services, administrative policies. The capability of those functions at the local level has been the base for the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board's success to create economic growth in our 17-county area for over 30 years.

The West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has been a key player in the economic development of Ballard County. When the WKWIB received a Regional Innovation Grant a few years ago, they awarded Ballard County funding to develop a strategic plan to identify how our economic assets could support the targeted sectors of the 17-county region. From that strategic work, our industrial and economic development board successfully recruited multiple companies. Every one of those new jobs can be traced back targeted sectors identified in the Regional Innovation Grant. Such success didn't just happen in Ballard County, but across the 17-county region.

In my opinion, the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has already proven itself a strong and successful Economic Development Region because of how it encourages each county to work together, finding how we are a part of an overall economic region. So why reinvent the process— unless you have areas across the state that are underperforming. While it “might” strengthen those underperforming local workforce areas, in my opinion it will only serve to dilute the continued success for the rest of us.

We need the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board to be determined its own Economic Development Region so that we can continue to build upon the work we've already achieved. We need them to continue to chart our future success within the targeted sectors that we've worked so hard to promote. There is very little economic commonality in the proposed Economic Development Region. Ballard County (and other small counties like ours) will only be lost in the process. What we have works and will continue to work under the new WIOA if given the opportunity. I hope that Steering Committee will come to understand that.

*Thank You,*

*Belinda Foster  
Ballard County Treasurer  
(270)335-5176  
[bctreasure@brtc.net](mailto:bctreasure@brtc.net)  
Fax(270)335-3010*

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Glenda <cbr@kih.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 3:12 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Wioa

The Economic Development region presented on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> does not align with the current sectors in our counties. Moving to such a large region could be detrimental to the hard work we have done to maintain our region since before WIA. The counties we have now have a similar sector focus, with about as large an area as is feasible. Currently people drive 1 ½ -2 hours to come together for meetings. Adding additional counties makes this unwieldy. It is unreasonable to ask private sector individuals to drive hours to volunteer their time. The local area is where the work needs to be done. This design does not take the local areas into account and look at how diverse their economies truly are...

Glenda Harper  
West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board Member (Caldwell County)

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** cme@brtc.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** FW: From Clyde Elrod

----- Original Message -----

**From :**  
**Cc :**  
**Subject :** FW: From Clyde Elrod

I am providing the following comments requesting that the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board's WIOA Steering Committee to reconsider its plan to divide the Commonwealth into three Economic Development Regions. Such alignment does not suit the economic diversity across the state – instead it eliminates the flexibility currently available to each local workforce board's ability to work quickly in responding to developing economic situations, whether it be delivering customized training programs for a new industrial facility or providing rapid response activities to workers in peril of dislocation. The proposed Economic Development Regions are too big to be effective.

It is my belief, that the current 17-county alignment of the West Kentucky Workforce best matches the industrial sectors and economic climate of our local area. Because of the strategic planning work completed by the workforce board in support of the Kentucky WIB's Work Smart plan, we as board members understand that our economic future is based on three fundamental principles: the further investment and development of the energy, healthcare, and transportation sectors. By joining in a larger Economic Development Region all that the planning work and program realignment that has been completed and successfully implemented by the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board will be forsaken. The strategic sectors we've worked so hard to develop will be changed and in my opinion, reduced its effectiveness in delivering quality workforce and economic development services.

Therefore, I request that the 17-county local area of the West Kentucky Workforce Investment be recommended for its own Economic Development Region designation. The entities are already accustomed to successfully working together with one voice to develop a strong economic environment, and the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has been successfully coordinating workforce and economic strategies, services, and administrative policies for over 30 years.

Sincerely,

Clyde Elrod

PO Box 185

Kevil, KY 42053

(270) 462-3361

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Larry Elkins <judgelarry@murray-ky.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 3:48 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Cc:** Jennifer Walker; Mark Manning  
**Subject:** Fw: Economic Development Region

**Subject:** Economic Development Region

I am firmly opposed to the plan to divide Kentucky into three Economic Development Regions. In the west, we have almost nothing in common with the Barren River and Green River workforce areas – except that we often compete for the same funding and potential industrial development projects. But that competition isn't based on what we have in common, instead the competition is in how we differ.

We differ in our industrial environments. We differ in postsecondary education partners. We differ in commuting patterns. We differ in urban/rural populations. We differ in tourism opportunities. We even differ on where Western Kentucky is actually located -- if we cannot agree on that – how can we agree on the coordination of workforce strategies, services, and administrative practices? It's simple – we can't.

Over the past few years, I've watched the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board conform to a variety of lofty initiatives that the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has handed down. They have risen to each challenge that has been presented. But I can't see anything good coming from this latest proposal – except the loss of the one thing we have to offer – the experience and flexibility to serve our citizens.

Larry Elkins  
Calloway County Judge Executive

## Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)

---

**From:** Greg Terry <judge@ccfcky.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 3:55 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

I appreciate the work that the KWIB's Steering Committee is doing in preparation of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. However, I think the proposed Economic Development Regions do not fit the needs to move Kentucky forward. I believe that the proposed overlay is too simple to be effective. I understand that at a state-level it will make decisions, funding, and program performance easier to coordinate, but at the local-level, where the local workforce areas and individual counties work, it will make things much harder and less effective.

Consolidation is supposed to bring together separate parts into a unified whole, discarding the unused and unwanted items. Obviously, if the proposed overlay is approved, we'll find a way to work together. But from my understanding the new law doesn't say that the local areas have to consolidate. It only says that Economic Development Regions must be developed. And in other areas of the state, large multi-jurisdictional regions might be desired. For example, it makes sense to bring together areas in Central, Northern, and Eastern Kentucky. But in the west, the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has successfully fulfilled its role as an Economic Development Region – long before any law declared the need for such designations.

We successfully “consolidated” our 17-counties long ago. We've worked hard to identify targeted sectors where each county can be a contributing partner. Our postsecondary institutions are eagerly fulfilling their role in developing new and emerging educational programs that will help our youth earn a degree and find good paying jobs close to home. The West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board is making an impact and personally, I want them to continue working – as they are -- to meet the economic challenges ahead. I'm concerned that if we do consolidate, the parts that will be discarded are the small counties, the rural counties, the unskilled labor force that we currently serve. So for their sake, I request that the Steering Committee reconsider its plan to develop three Economic Development Regions, instead I request that they consider the map and allow the 17-county area serviced by West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board to be designated as its own region.

Greg Terry  
Carlisle County Judge/Executive  
610 U.S. 51, Bardwell, KY 42023  
(270) 628-5451

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

---

**From:** Dennis Courtney <dcourtney@murray-ky.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Cc:** Clark, Sheila; 'Jennifer Beck-Walker'  
**Subject:** WIOA Steering Committee Recommendations

I have been a member of the WKWIB since its inception. Our 17 county WKWIB has enjoyed tremendous success throughout the years and has cultivated lasting relationships with both private and public sector partners. I understand that one or more WIBs in Kentucky have had problems. Those problems should be addressed. However, creating three huge regions does nothing to necessarily address those problems.

The current WIBs have been maintained and performed on the merits and work ethic of their respective staffs. If staff require additional training, oversight or new leadership, then that's what needs to occur. Surgeons use scalpels instead of butcher knives for a reason.

I have neither heard nor read anything that provides any pragmatic support for having three regions. It appears to just be an idea. Of course, there's nothing wrong with ideas. They are the embryos that can lead to wonderful successes. However, ideas do become problematic when they are but knee-jerk reactions to some other systemic issue. The three region proposal strikes me as such a reaction. Conversely, we have actual, quantifiable data to support the value and integrity of the WKWIB, as well as other regional WIBs.

I fear our state's programs may be subject to unnecessary scrutiny if the KWIB establishes these regions in what may appear to be a move to obfuscate the problems of a select region or two. It is hard to answer the question, "What makes you think you can run a large business if you can't run a small one?" Government needs to be more transparent, not less so.

I strongly urge you to not fix what is not broken, and to fix what is broken. No more; no less.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dennis J. Courtney  
Attorney at Law  
104 So. 15th St  
P.O. Box 150  
Murray, Ky. 42071  
270-759-3175 (office)  
270-759-3176 (fax)

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Jackie Jones <jackie@tjstoragetrailers.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 4:23 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** WIOA Stakeholder Session Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Chair of the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, I would like to comment on WIOA Stakeholder session that I attended on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. We already operate as a very diverse region in our 17 county area. If the state is divided into the three larger regions, it will become more difficult to represent individual company concerns in an immediate response time that business or industry wants and expects. This larger concept will hinder the WIB from being able to provide individual attention to people who need jobs or training for a better job. I would appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Jackie Jones, Chair  
West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

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<b><u>jackie@tjstoragetrailers.com</u></b> <b><u>www.tjstoragetrailers.com</u></b>	tel: <b><u>270-889-1118</u></b> ☎ fax: <b>801-740-8499</b> mobile: <b><u>270-348-2115</u></b> ☎
<i>Always have my latest info</i>	<i>Want a signature like this?</i>

## Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)

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**From:** Gary Jones <GaryW1946@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 7:07 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** WIOA designation/re designation

I have served on the Pennyrile Area District Development board of directors for eleven years. The information presented at the Regional and Local Area Designation/Redesignation meeting on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> was very limited. By only having 1 choice with 3 economic development regions is not realistic to the work we do on a daily basis. The counties being combined into the west have very little to do with our economy. Certainly WK has very little in common with the BRADD area, BRADD is just an extension of the I-65 Corridor. The proposed area is too large and too diverse to be merged successfully. The priorities for economic development are so different. Also, The logistics of the size and commute for board members is unrealistic. Nothing good can come of forcing a match to occur where the districts have nothing in common other than location. Please consider the effect this will have on the whole rather than concentrating on just one area of the state.

Gary Jones  
Director of Business Development  
Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress



*Jim Martin*  
*County Judge/Executive*

## FULTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

2216 Myron Cory Dr., Suite 1, Hickman, KY 42050

(270) 236-2594

Fulton County Courthouse - 1903

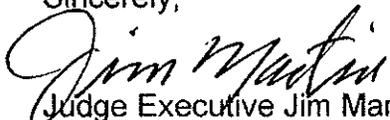
February 6, 2015

Letter of Support:

I have reviewed the Economic Development Regions that the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board's Steering Committee has proposed. It is my belief that the plan to merge all the local workforce areas into one of three super-regions is over ambitious -- at this point in time. Such consolidation will require a multi-agency realignment could dramatic reduce each local workforce areas and economic corporations effectiveness and ability to complete their current strategic plans.

The West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has successfully acted as "economic development region" for the past 30 years, as it coordinates workforce strategies, services and administrative practices across a 17-county local area that comprises two area development districts and multiple state boundaries. It is my belief that the success of the West Kentucky Workforce Board's ability to meet program performance standard, fiscal integrity, and unanimous consent by all of the local elected officials sends a clear message that it can perform as its own Economic Development Region, then when appropriate for the local workforce area, it can begin discussion on how best to grow into the next level -- modelling successful integration of workforce and economic development delivery.

Sincerely,

  
Judge Executive Jim Martin  
Fulton County  
2216 Myron Cory Drive  
Hickman, KY 42050  
Phone: 270-236-2594

James  
Black

Henry  
Callison



George  
Jones

Billy  
Nelms, Jr.

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Jennifer Beck-Walker <Jennifer.BeckWalker@purchaseadd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 6:17 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** New Federal Workforce Innovations & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Areas & Eco Dev Regions

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Regional and Local Area Designation and Redesignation Stakeholder Input and Engagement Sessions and also for the ability to provide comments.

It is my understanding that, as the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (WKWIB) has been established for at least the previous two years, has met its performance measures, has had no fiscal integrity issues, and has the unanimous consent to remain an area by its local elected officials, the Governor can automatically renew our local Workforce Investment Area for the next two years. We obviously want that to occur, not only for our own Workforce Investment Area, but for the others across the state as well and; therefore, recommend Local Area Option 1.

I do wish to express concern regarding the three proposed "Economic Development Regions". The proposed West Region includes the four Area Development Districts (ADDs) of Purchase, Pennyriple, Green River, and Barren River. There are some obvious challenges identified in a region this large (4 hours and 240 miles across) and diverse when you are attempting to coordinate strategies, services, and administrative practices.

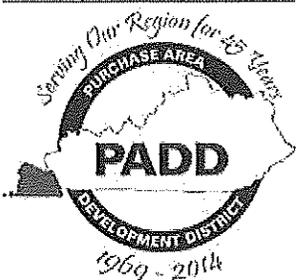
We believe that the West KY Workforce Investment Area already is a region and has been practicing as such for the last 30 years. We encompass 2 ADD districts, 3 community colleges, 1 regional university, and nearly 20 economic development agencies. We believe we have almost nothing in common with Barren River and very little with Green River (Delta Regional Authority, I-69, and energy/coal sector, which is diminishing). Our desire is to be designated as our own region, allowing us to continue coordinating across boundaries, both in-state and out-of-state, as appropriate.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Beck Walker*

Jennifer Beck Walker  
Executive Director  
Purchase Area Development District  
PO Box 588, 1002 Medical Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066  
Phone: 270-247-7171 Fax: 270-251-6110  
[jennifer.beckwalker@purchaseadd.org](mailto:jennifer.beckwalker@purchaseadd.org)  
[www.purchaseadd.org](http://www.purchaseadd.org)



## Comments on Designation of Workforce Regions and Boards

February 3, 2015

I attended the information session today in Hopkinsville on the new Workforce initiative and the designation of Workforce areas and Economic Development Regions. I am a member of the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and Executive Committee. I represent Economic Development on the Board. Prior to October, 2009; I was the Executive Director of the Pennyrile ADD. This is the third or fourth iteration of federal workforce legislation I have personally experienced. With each of these legislative changes, came improvements.

There seems to be confusion on the distinction between the Local Area Designation and ED Region designation. Regarding the current WKWIB area, the 17 counties of far west Kentucky; currently the agencies and organizations are working together. The geographic area is sufficiently large enough to allow for economies of scale, yet small enough to be responsive to the workforce needs. I see no advantage in changing this designation. Leave it as is as a local area designation under Option 1 or 2.

Regarding Economic Regions—If I understand the options correctly, I would not favor Option 3, the only option provided for Economic Development Regions. As I recall, we have been down this road before with the 9 Region idea some time back. Workforce Boards, Area Development Districts, Community Colleges and state/federal agencies have spent millions in developing Interstate Corridor studies, strategic plans, sector strategies, cluster studies, market analysis, etc. Adding one more new arbitrary geographic boundary and calling it an Economic Region makes no sense. The counties west of BRADD, even the most eastern county, Todd; are much closer aligned in trade patterns to Clarksville, TN than to Bowling Green. Muhlenberg County does gravitate toward Owensboro, but none of the other Pennyrile counties do. Frankly, I think you will have a hard time selling this concept in our area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Dan Bozarth  
Cadiz, Kentucky

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Don Howerton <don.howerton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 2:06 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Response to Stakeholder Session

I attended the WIOA Stakeholder Session on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and I was disappointed that there was only one proposed Economic Development Region. Our local area currently aligns with the economic development region, as it should be. Our region (Purchase/Pennyrile) has become efficient and adapted to market our regions strengths for over 15 years through hard work. We already have 17 counties and have worked hard for many years to build those relationships and collaboration. Most of the counties we are being combined with have a different sector focus and the distance across the region will make real work difficult. I feel the proposed regions are too large to accomplish anything of relevance and the logistics of the commute for board members is unrealistic. I encourage the Steering Committee to reconsider the proposed regions and condense the regions, leaving the Purchase and Pennyrile areas as their own Economic Development Region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Howerton

PADD WIB Member

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Steve Tribble, CJE <cjst@hopkinsville.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2015 10:36 AM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Economic Development Regions

I attended the WIOA Local Officials Session in Hopkinsville as a local official under the West KY WIB. I am pleased to see that the suggestion that the local area would remain the same due to its success and its partnerships. We have a comfortable, collaborative and productive relationship that Economic Development groups support and work together to address sector issues and training needs. However, the idea of joining two additional local areas to compose a new Economic Development Region—West KY—could halt our forward progress while we attempt to bring everyone to a comfort level of working together for common Sector strategies and partnerships. It would be very difficult to accomplish the activity requirements within such a large region with diverse groups, never the less to bring economic developers into any coordinated strategy discussions. We need to focus our energies on the opportunities of the new legislation within our local area which may already be large enough and diverse enough to meet a regional requirement. Certainly, no more than Green River should be considered in adding to our current 17 counties for a new Economic Development Region. Even that additional would hurt forward progress as we have not worked together in economic development areas.

Thank you,

Steve Tribble  
Christian County Judge Executive

**LOCAL AREA NOT IDENTIFIED  
IN EMAIL**

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** palmtreeniner@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 4:05 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** Wia designation

Why would you want to end something that has helped so many people?! I got a FULL ride to an 18 month program to school by these kind people. I didn't have to pay for books, tuition, scrubs..... Because of this program I have gotten to go into the field of study where I've wanted to go my whole life. If it weren't for this program I would have thousands of dollars of student loans. So I want to say THANK YOU for paying for my education.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Downey, Marlesha F (Southcentral Student) <mdowney0020@kctcs.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 5:16 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** WIA Youth Program

I am writing in support of the WIA Youth Program. This program is very valuable and sometimes the only avenue for some people to be able to afford and attend college. The program assist financially but it is also a support system while individual are in school. They monitor the student and their class work in an effort to be pro-active in helping the student succeed. If a student is having trouble in a class or feels trouble coming down the way, WIA steps in and helps them find tutors to assist and maintain good grades.

This is a great program that is investing and fostering people in our region. It would be a injustice to our region if the program was taken away.

Please keep this program in place.

Marlesha Downey  
Freshman at KCTCS

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** charlotte crume <charlottemoh@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:25 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you please consider carefully the choices you are about to make that effect the lives of so many people. Not just the towns, counties and communities that this office services but the people inside this office. The people that have made it their life's work to help people. To put the best interest of others at the top of their list.

I understand cuts and budgets and all the things that come to play but I would beg you to please look at all the good that comes from this office and consider your decision carefully and prayerfully.

Charlotte Crume  
Sent from my iPhone

**Prewitt, Linda A (OET-FK)**

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**From:** Jennifer Fugate <jennfugate1972@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:36 PM  
**To:** EDU WIOA Designation  
**Subject:** WIA program

To whom it may concern:

My family was directly impacted by this program. My husbands business failed due to a downturn in the economy several years ago. This program paid for him to go back to school and he became a truck driver. My family would not have been able to survive were it not for this program. Please consider the families who need this program. If you can't stop lay offs and displaced workers, then you SIMPLY MUST keep this program!!!!

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Fugate

Sent from my iPhone