STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

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GREG BELL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 7, 2013

Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Mike Lee
Congressman Jim Matheson
Congressman Rob Bishop
Congressman Jason Chaffetz
Congressman Chris Stewart

Dear Members of the Utah Congressional Delegation,

Throughout the last several years, the State of Utah has been in discussions with other states, national organizations and the federal government regarding workforce laws and guidelines. During these conversations, we encouraged the federal government to adopt reform principles centered on state flexibility, accountability and consistency across programs.

To that end, I encourage your support of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, sponsored by U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. Utah has had the privilege of working with Rep. Foxx on workforce issues during the past few years and H.R. 803 addresses many jobs-focused principles.

Among the significant provisions, H.R. 803 improves accountability and transparency by requiring states to adhere to "common performance measures" for all workforce services to help eliminate waste. The bill also requires an independent evaluation of training programs every five years.

Perhaps most importantly, H.R. 803 streamlines existing federal workforce development programs. It repeals thirty-five ineffective and duplicative programs and creates a flexible Workforce Investment Fund to serve as a single source of support for workers, employers and job seekers. It empowers states to consolidate additional employment and training programs, as well services to improve administrative efficiency.

Utah's stewardship of federal funds for workforce programs have proven to be innovative, efficient and committed to positive results for our customers and the taxpayer. Passage of H.R. 803 will give us the flexibility to improve on already impressive outcomes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert
Governor