

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

March 5, 2007

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The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

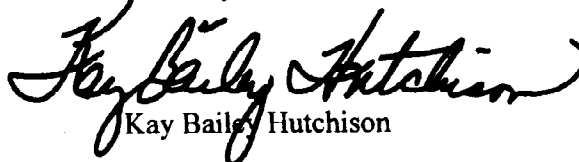
Dear Secretary Chao:

Following the recent passage of H.J. Res. 20, legislation providing continuing appropriations for the federal government through the end of fiscal year 2007, Office of Management and Budget Director Rob Portman issued a memorandum providing guidance to Departments and Agencies about obligating such funds. Director Portman also indicated that while "no oral or written communication . . . shall supersede statutory criteria, competitive awards, or merit-based decision-making . . . the Administration welcomes input to make informed decisions."

With that in mind, I want to bring to your attention two important and worthwhile projects in Texas (see attached list) that I strongly support and ask that your Department give consideration to funding during the current fiscal year. These projects were approved at both the Senate Appropriations subcommittee and full committee levels and were included in the Senate Report accompanying S. 3708, the Fiscal Year 2007 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 20, 2006.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests. Please contact me or James Christoferson (202-224-9774) if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,


Kay Bailey Hutchison

Enclosure

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APPROPRIATIONS

Project Name: **Project ARRIBA, El Paso, TX, for workforce development and economic opportunities in the West Texas region**
Account: Employment and Training Administration/Training and Employment Services
Request: \$100,000
Description: Funds will be used to ensure the unemployed, displaced, or under-employed of the far West Texas region are able to secure living wage employment with benefits and a career path while filling in-demand, high skilled occupations (i.e., schoolteachers, nurses and Information Technology, etc.). Project ARRIBA does this through formal education and intense case management that involves supportive services, personal accountability of each participant, workforce development skills sets, life and career planning skills. Funds will be used for costs associated with retraining workers.
Contact: Kathy Cox
Project ARRIBA
1155 Westmoreland, Suite 235
El Paso, TX 79925-5623
(915) 843-4055

Project Name: **Texas Workforce Commission, Austin, TX, for the Texas Adult Technology Training Project**
Account: Employment and Training Administration/Training and Employment Services
Request: \$200,000
Description: Funds will be used to expand the Texas Adult Technology Training project developed by the Texas Workforce Commission in 2001. This pilot project, which trained Spanish-speaking dislocated workers in El Paso, demonstrated that computer-based training integrated with English literacy, GED preparation, and vocational training allows Spanish-speaking workers to complete training and become employed in a shorter time period than traditional training models. Funds will be used for curriculum development and equipment costs.
Contact: Steve Pier
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-1134

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U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20210



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The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Chao urging Department of Labor funding for two specific projects.

While we appreciate your advocacy for the two Texas projects cited in your letter, the Department is bound by the statutory provisions of H.J. Res. 20, the full-year appropriation for Fiscal Year 2007. In view of Section 112, the Department may accord earmark status only to those statutorily designated. The Department is governed by a competitive, merit-based procurement process for selecting its grantees, consistent with the guidance set forth in the Office of Management and Budget's memorandum of February 15, 2007.

However, we do encourage all potential grantees to apply competitively for resources that may be available from the Department, as well as other federal agencies. The application process has been greatly streamlined. Potential grantees may log on to www.Grants.gov and review the opportunities available there. The site is a central storehouse for information on over 1,000 grant programs and affords access to approximately \$400 billion in annual awards. By registering once on this site, potential grantees can apply for grants from 26 different federal agencies.

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Labor's programs. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 693-4601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristine Iverson".

Kristine A. Iverson