



RESOLUTION ON STATEWIDE WORKFORCE REALIGNMENT

WHEREAS, this resolution formally requests the North Carolina Department of Commerce, NC Works Commission, retain the boundaries of the Southwestern Workforce Development Board in its final recommendations for statewide realignment or consolidation of Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) or Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs). The Southwestern Workforce Development Board serves Region A, which includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties. The Chief Elected Official does not support any final recommendation that separates these seven counties, merges them into larger areas, or consolidates other LWDAs into the region served by the Southwestern Local Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Local Workforce Development Board is the designated planning and administrative area to receive funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Official is the designated recipient of WIOA funds for the Southwestern Workforce Development Board, and charged with the oversight and implementation of WIOA programs and activities within the region; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Official appoints the members of the Southwestern Workforce Development Board, and selects the Fiscal Agent and Administrative Entity for the area; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Official supports local and regional workforce solutions to address common issues or opportunities, coordinates state and federal program service delivery by the Southwestern Workforce Development Board to build strategic partnerships to improve the prosperity of the seven counties within Region A; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Workforce Development Board was designated by the North Carolina Division of Workforce Solutions (NCDWS) based on factors such as common community growth patterns anchored by metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, shared labor pools, commuting patterns, coordinated economic development strategies, regional alignment with state and federal programs and services, and empowered to carry out programs and services that are of mutual interests to member governments within Region A; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern NC Planning and Economic Commission (Council of Government) serves as the fiscal agent and/or administrative entity for WIOA programs; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern NC Planning and Economic Commission (Council of Government) serves as the designated Economic Development District through the United States Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Official, the Southwestern Workforce Development Board, and the Southwestern NC Planning and Economic Commission (Council of Government) work together to align the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to improve the local area's workforce infrastructure, and to provide a skilled workforce for area job seekers and employers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Jackson formally requests to retain its current designation, geographic boundary, and appointed entities to carry out WIOA programs and activities, and that we do not support any final recommendation that separates these seven counties, merges them into larger areas, or consolidates other LWDA's into the region served by the Southwestern Local Workforce Board.

This the 19th day of April, 2022.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
BRIAN THOMAS MCMAHAN, Chairman

Attest:

ANGELA M. WINCHESTER, Clerk to the Board