



Workforce Development Board of Tompkins County

401 E. State/MLK Jr. St.
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Ithaca, NY 14850

Natalie Branosky
Executive Director
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Tompkins County
125 E. Court St.
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Ithaca, NY 14850

June 10, 2020

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Office of the Minority Leader
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Minority Leader
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
U.S. Senate
478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Reed (NY 23rd)
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand,
Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Congressman Reed:

On behalf of the Tompkins County Workforce Development Board, the Tompkins County Legislature, and Tompkins County Administration, we write in strong support of increased funding for the U.S. Workforce Development System, and specifically for programs outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

As home to Cornell University and a vibrant community rooted in partnership and innovation, our economy is central to New York's Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes Region. Our key industries of higher education, hospitality and tourism, health care, manufacturing and technology-based companies have suffered a significant loss of business income, and indeed skill sets.

Our County has a population of 104,000 residents. We are also the university-based home of over 30,000 students, most of whom have departed the County due to the move to on-line learning of Cornell University and Ithaca College.

- Throughout COVID-19, our Workforce Board meetings and Committee meetings have continued and are on pace to meet annual requirements

As the phases of NYForward roll out and our County re-opens for business, we're assessing:

- The impact COVID-19 has had on our County budget process
- The number of people who may not return to work due to permanent job loss
- The number of businesses which have or may close in the absence of a full return to income
- The skills desired by employers in this new economy, but which aren't available in our talent pool
- How our sector strategies, career pathways, and workforce programs should adapt as job titles, tasks and workplace realities change

We represent one voice from Tompkins County, however we know our experience is a shared one throughout New York and across the United States. Our funds will run out quickly and prevent us from serving businesses and workers. Our unemployment rate requires bold investments that are both emergency-based, and longer-term in thinking.

We join with National, State and Local partners calling for a \$15 billion investment in programs within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and other workforce-related programs as follows:

WIOA Title I

- \$2.5 billion for Adult
- \$2.5 billion for Youth
- \$2.5 billion for Dislocated Worker
- \$500 million for Dislocated Worker National Reserve

WIOA Title II

- \$1 billion for Adult Education

WIOA Title III

- \$1 billion for Wagner Peyser

Other Programs

- \$500 million for Job Corps
- \$150 million for Native American Programs
- \$150 million for Migrant Seasonal Farmworker
- \$250 million for YouthBuild
- \$350 million for Reentry
- \$500 million for Registered Apprenticeships
- \$2 billion for Community College and Industry Partnership Grants (TAACCCT)
- \$1 billion for Perkins-CTE

We also support language that gives priority of services in local One-Stop Career Centers to those directly impacted by COVID-19 economically, including those seeking employment, dislocated workers, individuals with barriers to employment, and individuals who are unemployed or underemployed.

Thank you for your leadership on The Hill throughout this moment in our nation's history. We urge you to prioritize these necessary funds to reach the businesses, communities and individuals impacted by the crisis. Please contact Natalie Branosky, Executive Director of the Tompkins County Workforce Development Board with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

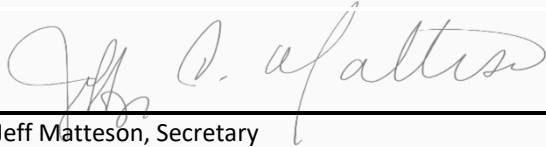
The Tompkins County Workforce Development Board



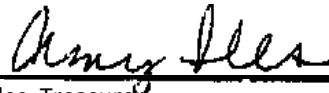
Scott Pronti, Chair
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Vice President of Human Resources,
Tompkins Trust Company



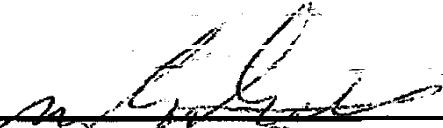
Derek Burrows, Vice Chair
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
General Counsel,
GammaTech



Jeff Matteson, Secretary
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
District Superintendent,
TST - BOCES



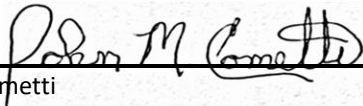
Amy Iles, Treasurer
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
CPA,
Scarabba Walker & Co. LLP



Mohamed Abdelrehim
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
General Manager,
Homewood Suites



Allan Bishop
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Human Resources,
Cornell University



John Cornetti
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Business Agent,
Teamsters 317



Lee Dillon
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Executive Director,
Tompkins Community Action



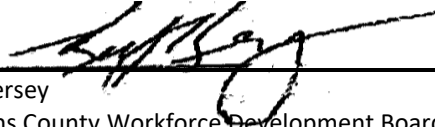
Brian Forrest
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Vice President of Human Resources,
Cayuga Medical Center



Kirra Franzese
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Human Resources,
Ithaca College



Kit Kephart
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
DSS Commissioner,
Tompkins County



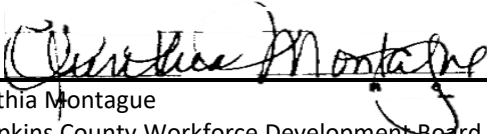
Kevin Kersey
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Director of Human Resources,
Rheonix, Inc.



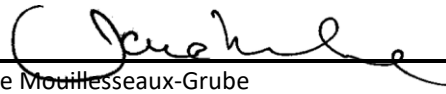
Paul Leveque
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Architect,
Holt Architect



Heather McDaniel
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
President,
Tompkins County Area Development



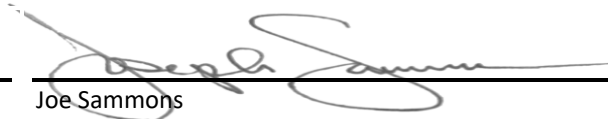
Orinthia Montague
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
President,
Tompkins Cortland Community College



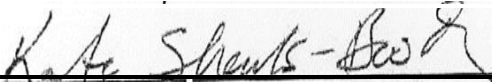
Jackie Mouillesseaux-Grube
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Interim Director,
Office of Employment and Training, Tompkins County



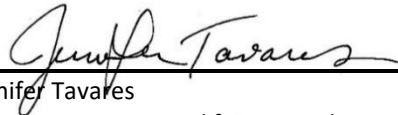
Dereon Pruitt
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Director of Human Resources,
BorgWarner



Joe Sammons
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Executive Director,
Challenge Workforce Solutions



Kate Shanks-Booth
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Director,
Tompkins County Youth Services



Jennifer Tavares
Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
President/CEO,
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce



Natalie Branosky
Executive Director, Tompkins County Workforce Development Board

The Tompkins County Legislature



Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature



Shawna Black, Vice Chair
Tompkins County Legislature



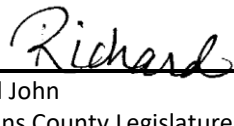
Amanda Champion
Tompkins County Legislature




Deborah Dawson
Tompkins County Legislature



Henry Granison
Tompkins County Legislature



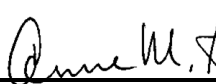
Richard John
Tompkins County Legislature



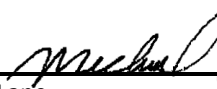
Anna Kelles
Tompkins County Legislature



Daniel Klein
Tompkins County Legislature



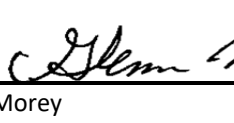
Anne M. Koreman
Tompkins County Legislature



Michael Lane
Tompkins County Legislature



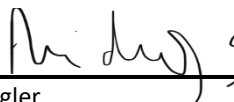
David McKenna
Tompkins County Legislature



Glenn Morey
Tompkins County Legislature




Martha Robertson
Tompkins County Legislature



Mike Sigler
Tompkins County Legislature

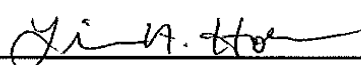
Tompkins County Administration



Jason Molino
Administrator, Tompkins County



Amie Hendrix
Deputy Administrator, Tompkins County



Lisa Holmes
Deputy Administrator, Tompkins County