

October 9, 2003

Mr. Fred Tello, Grant Officer
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S4203
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Tello:

I am pleased to learn that Klamath-Lake Employment Training Institute has submitted for a National Emergency Grant to provide retraining and reemployment assistance to one hundred and fifty one displaced workers from Sykes Enterprises in Klamath Falls, Oregon. According to Sykes, a telephone support center, the layoff is permanent.

The Klamath Basin is still recovering from a devastating economic blow sustained in 2001 when the irrigation water was shut off to almost 200,000 acres of farmland. The direct impact of that event on the farmers and ancillary businesses is still being felt today. The layoff at Sykes certainly compounds the damage already sustained.

Klamath-Lake Employment Training Institute demonstrated in that time of crisis that it could effectively respond to a serious situation with professionalism and dispatch. I am confident that they will achieve significant results when this grant application is approved.

Mr. Tello, I thank you for your expeditious consideration of the Klamath-Lake Employment Training Institute's application. I am very interested in seeing those one hundred and fifty one constituents returned to full and productive employment without delay.

Please respond to my Medford, Oregon office.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Greg Walden, consisting of a large, bold letter 'W'.

Greg Walden
Member of Congress