

September 1, 2010

Mr. Barry Topol
Assessment Solutions Group
215 Loch Lomond Way
Danville, CA 94526

Dear Barry:

On behalf of the SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium, I would like to thank ASG for its excellent work in supporting our consortium in responding to the recent USED NIA on Common and Comprehensive Assessment Systems. The work of ASG was key to our generating an accurate and timely response to the NIA and your assistance in the cost modeling of the assessment program was timely, comprehensive and of overall benefit to our proposal .

ASG assumed responsibility for generating the final budget narrative and associated tables that were included in the Consortium's NIA response. ASG's budget templates, assessment cost models and budget narratives were critical components in our proposal design. We appreciated ASG's willingness and ability to generate the final product, in a relatively short time frame, that met all of the requirements of the NIA. We also appreciated your attendance at SBAC meetings to present important information on assessment costs.

Sincerely,



SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium

Judy Park and Tony Alpert Executive Committee Co-Chairs.
Joe Willhoft, Ph.D. Fiscal Agent Project Director