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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Employment and Training Administration**

[TA-W-40,899A]

**E.J. Footwear LLC, Franklin, Tennessee; Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance**

In accordance with section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2273) the Department of Labor issued a Notice of Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance on July 15, 2002, applicable to workers of E.J. Footwear LLC located in Franklin, Tennessee. The notice was published in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2002 (67 FR 48485).

At the request of the State agency, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. Findings on review show that workers of the subject firm were previously certified eligible to apply for TAA under petition TA-W-38,042 which expired on November 2, 2002. The amended certification for TA-W-40,899A established an impact date of October 24, 2000. In order to avoid an overlap in worker group coverage, this certification is being amended to establish a new impacted date of November 3, 2002.

The amended notice applicable to TA-W-40,899A is hereby issued as follows:

All workers of E.J. Footwear LLC, Franklin, Tennessee, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after November 3, 2002, through April 3, 2004, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Signed at Washington, DC this 10th day of February, 2003.

**Linda G. Poole,**

*Certifying Officer, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Employment and Training Administration****Proposed Collection; Comment Request****ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to

reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format; reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized; collection instruments are clearly understood; and the impact of collection on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new collection of administrative and survey data on the Growing America Through Entrepreneurship project. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before August 5, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Jonathan Simonetta, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration/Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research, Rm. N-5637, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-3911 (this is not a toll-free number); [jsimonetta@doleta.gov](mailto:jsimonetta@doleta.gov); Fax: (202) 693-2766 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Many individuals have the motivation and skills to develop small businesses but lack business expertise and/or access to financing. Recognizing this untapped potential, ETA is teaming with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to create a demonstration program designed to assist individuals interested in self-employment to develop their businesses—Project GATE (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship). In helping people develop businesses, Project GATE will promote both workforce and economic development. The effectiveness of the program will be evaluated.

Entrepreneurial services provided by Project GATE will include an assessment, a structured training course, and technical assistance provided by a trained counselor. As part of the technical assistance, counselors will assist individuals in need of financing to apply for loans from SBA's Microloan

program and other funding sources. DOL's One-Stop Centers will conduct Project GATE orientations where interested individuals will be informed about the services available at the One-Stop Center, the benefits and challenges of self-employment and the services offered through Project GATE. Small Business Development Center (SBDC) counselors will conduct individuals assessments and identify the most appropriate training course for each Project GATE participant. Existing entrepreneurial training providers in the community will provide training and technical assistance.

DOL's One-Stop Centers will play a central role in recruiting for the project. Interested individuals will be able to register for an orientation to Project GATE at One-Stop Centers as well as via telephone, mail, or a Website. The orientations will also be held at the One-Stop Centers.

Eligibility for Project GATE will be broad—it is designed to serve almost anyone interested in starting a business. Special attention will be paid, however, to recruiting immigrant populations.

Project GATE will be evaluated using an experimental design. Individuals who submit an application for Project GATE in each site and who meet minimal eligibility criteria will be randomly assigned to either a program group or a control group. Members of the program group will be eligible to receive Project GATE services, while members of the control group will not be eligible to receive Project GATE services, although they will not be prohibited from receiving self-employment services from other services.

GATE will be implemented in seven sites—three urban and four rural sites. The three urban sites are in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. The rural sites are one in Minnesota centered around Duluth, and three in Maine centered around Portland, Bangor, and Lewiston.

The evaluation will address three key questions:

1. *Is Project GATE Viable?* What are the challenges in implementing the program? Does an interagency model for the program work? Who participates in GATE? Is the outreach effective in reaching immigrants? How does the implementation of the program vary across sites?

2. *Does the Program Work?* Does the program increase self-employment, increase employment and earnings, and reduce the receipt of unemployment insurance and public assistance? Does the program promote employment and