



June 20, 2018

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

On behalf of Comfort Research, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works!

Comfort Research, is an industry leading and fast growing manufacturer of lifestyle consumer products including Big Joe®, Fuf®, Bean Bagimals®, Classic Beanbag™ and the recently introduced Orahh™ product lines. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, MI the company is a medium size employer which was co-founded in 1997 by Matt Jung and Chip George. Comfort Research is revolutionizing and developing affordable lifestyle consumer products through innovation and research that deliver greater comfort, design aesthetics and value. Committed to becoming the "Best known brand in consumer lifestyle products" and recognized as a Great Place to Work, Comfort Research's growth has been fueled by the demand for comfortable, innovative and quality lifestyle consumer seating through on-line and major retail locations. Most recently, we were awarded the Forbes Small Giants award, recognizing our commitment to doing great things in our communities, for the planet, and for our people.

I connected with West Michigan Works! as a resource to assist with documented training of incumbent workers on existing and new manufacturing equipment. Comfort Research has experienced exponential growth in last 3+ years. We face continued pressures and challenges from our customers to have all of our business, manufacturing and equipment processes documented. In order for Comfort Research to keep up with our growth, we are making significant capital investments in new equipment, compounding our need for training. Our capital investments will require extensive training to meet increased customer expectations, fend off fierce competition, drive continued job stability and growth.

Michigan Works! helped us reach our goal of training and certification of over 90+ employees. This will help to position Comfort Research for continued future growth. Our company has benefited by working with West Michigan Works! because the skills training certifications will enable our employees and Comfort Research to aggressively compete and remain leaders in the industry. What I find most valuable about partnering with West Michigan Works! is investing in our local community and growing our business, which in turn allows our employees opportunities and our community to prosper.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Kitchen
Director of Operations
616-475-5000

