



March 26, 2019

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am writing this letter to explain how our relationship with Oakland County Michigan Works! has greatly benefited both our business and our more than 70 employees. Located in Oxford, Barron Industries is a custom manufacturer of precision machined castings for aerospace, defense, automotive, oil and gas and other commercial industries.

Barron promotes a supportive and nurturing work environment where individuals can grow and prosper according to their needs and interests. Having taken advantage of our training programs to advance in their positions, more than 80 percent of our employees have been at Barron between 5 and 40 years. As our dedicated longtime employees are now approaching retirement age, we need to train current and new employees to take over their positions. In addition, due to increases in business and exports, we need to hire and train many new employees to meet our customers' needs. Moving forward, to ensure the future health of the company, Barron also plans to continue to diversify and grow our non-defense business, however these plans will only be realized if we can attract a strong and competent workforce.

Our partnership with Oakland County Michigan Works! has helped us to train both current and new employees which we've recruited through the Pure Michigan Talent Connect system. Our Business Service Representative Sarah Kropinski has helped us improve our job descriptions and post them on the system, attracting many new applicants who are eligible for the Michigan Works On the Job Training (OJT) Program which, very efficiently, reimburses our company for the training we provide to them. Our Michigan Works Program Coordinators have also assisted our new employees in getting started by providing them funding for safety equipment and transportation. Sarah also advised us with our Going Pro Talent Fund application, and we were successful in acquiring funds to train 20 new employees and 19 current employees, allowing them to advance in their positions, which we hope increases our employee retention rate. We also hope to work with Michigan Works to start new apprenticeship programs applicable to our manufacturing process.

We are very appreciative of the time, talent and energy provided to Barron by the Oakland County Michigan Works! Team, and we look forward to a long relationship aimed at helping us hire and promote our employees.

Sincerely,



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