



September 8, 2017

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

Dear Governor Snyder,

On behalf of Parkway Electric & Communications, LLC, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! Parkway Electric & Communications, LLC has a long history in Michigan. Since 1945, Parkway has been providing electrical and communication services in West Michigan and more recently all across the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. We currently employ 145 men and women in design and installation work as well as related business support functions.

I connected with West Michigan Works! because we needed assistance with entry level and licensed electricians and telecommunications technicians. With the help of Kevin Lutz, our MiWorks Business Solution Representative, we were able to provide training for unskilled entry level employees and training to increase technical skills for employees already on the payroll. With the loss of many skilled craftsmen in the Great Recession Parkway faced, and still faces, a shortage of qualified and skilled labor. The workforce development services provided by WestMichigan Works! helped Parkway support training for sixteen craftsmen and technicians – a full 11% of our workforce. Michigan Works! helped me reach my goal of maintaining a skilled workforce keeping stride with the ongoing technical changes in the workplace.

West Michigan Works! has been very helpful in making the community aware of opportunities presented by the State of Michigan. Many West Michigan residents have benefitted from the placement services and support for trade training thanks to the efforts of MiWorks and we thank them for their great work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Bulthuis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Bulthuis
Safety & Human Resources Manager
(616) 886 - 2678