

SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS

the Best Experience Company



1 May 2019

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am writing to share our appreciation of the NE Michigan Works offices and related Workforce Development System and specifically the work done by Alayne Hansen and Brenda Bachelder.

Springs Window Fashions is a Wisconsin-based manufacturer and has fourteen facilities world-wide that each manufacture and assemble window treatments and interior shutters under the brands – Bali and Graber. Our Grayling plant exclusively processes wood and is the largest purchaser and processor of basswood in North America. Annually we produce over 130 million feet of wood window blind and interior shutter components. Our facility prides itself on being a “Green Facility” and we are also the City of Grayling’s largest for-profit employer.

Since coming to Grayling in 2003, Springs has increased its workforce to keep pace with our successful product lines. With the country’s lowest unemployment in years and a dearth of viable workers in the area it has been a challenge to find, recruit, and retain qualified workers. The Grayling and Prudenville Michigan Works teams - particularly Alayne Hansen and Brenda Bachelder - have selflessly contributed their time and energy to help us grow our business and support our Michigan workers.

I have participated in several Michigan Works “Job Fairs” and each netted a significant applicant pool that added quality associates to our growing workforce. We draw salaried and hourly candidates from nine Lower Peninsula counties here in the northern part of the state, some from as far away as Alger and Petoskey. Many of these candidates apply on-line at the Michigan Works offices in Grayling and Prudenville. Michigan Works staff provides assistance to the “computer challenged” candidates. They understand our business and help explain our expectations which provides us another level of screening to find the best fit for Springs. Michigan Works! staff have toured our operations frequently and are familiar with our work environment and expectations.

Over one-third of our associates are military veterans or active National Guard or Reservists. Michigan Works staff help us continue to seek out and hire our Michigan veterans who have given so much to our country.

Your administration is clearly listening and responding to the needs of Michigan workers and employers, and we truly appreciate your efforts. Alayne Hansen and Brenda Bachelder exemplify the spirit of your efforts to keep Michigan on the path to prominence in manufacturing.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of employers within our great state. I would like to extend our warm welcome to you and your staff to visit us at your convenience; it would be our pleasure to give you a tour of our facility and introduce you to our associates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John Metts'.

John Metts
Human Resources Manager
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