

**JIT Tool & Die**  
7294 Route 219  
Brockport, PA 15823  
814-265-0257

2696

Rec'd

10/20

9:17

October 19, 2009

IRRC Commissioners:

Please accept this email as support for the proposed Keystone Exams. As a small business owner, it is becoming more and more difficult to find competent individuals to fill vacant positions. Although the Keystone Exams will not correct all the issues that currently exist, I believe they are a step in the right direction.

My company, JIT Tool and Die, is located in Elk County and employs 50 people, and we manufacture high-end tooling primarily for the metal powder industry in and around the north central Pennsylvania region. As you may know, manufacturing accounts for 35% of all jobs in our rural area and plays an important in the national economy as well as the local Pennsylvania economy.

I am a product of our Pennsylvania education system as is my wife and my five children. I strongly believe that we have good schools, skilled teachers and a progressive educational system. However, as in my business and every day life, things are changing all around us. Like it or not, we have all had to change. Business as usual is no longer the accepted norm. We have all been squeezed into a mold of change by global demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we all need to respond and respond quickly. If we are to survive in manufacturing, we must strive to prepare a highly skilled work force and the foundation for that is a sound school education.

Unfortunately, at the present time, a Pennsylvania high school diploma does not ensure anyone that the graduate is prepared to move on. Many graduates find only frustration when told that their competency levels are not sufficient to either start their employment or their higher education future. Many industries, as well as universities, colleges and training schools are finding it necessary to remediate recent graduates. In some cases, remediation is adding as much as an additional year to the student's higher education experience and has become extremely costly. Many industries are finding a large number of recent graduates who apply for jobs are either not qualified or need remediation before they can start work. This also places an additional cost burden on the manufacturers. When this happens, the system has failed and our kids have been put at an unfair disadvantage.

Pennsylvania must institute these changes if it wants the businesses to succeed in this global economy; therefore, I encourage you to approve the Keystone Exam Regulations.

Regards,

***Bob Beimel***

Bob Beimel  
Owner

2696

**From:** Ron Kuleck [ron@teampa.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2009 8:00 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Support for Keystone Exam  
**Attachments:** JIT Tool Support.doc

RECEIVED

2009 OCT 20 AM 9:17

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept the following email in support of the Keystone Exams, #2696.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Bob Beimel <jit@hughes.net>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 19, 2009 at 2:57 PM  
**Subject:** Keystone Support  
**To:** Ron Kuleck [ron@teampa.com](mailto:ron@teampa.com)

Hey Ron,

Will you please forward this email/attachment to the appropriate folks to show my support for the Keystone Exam Regulation?

Thank You,  
Bob

Robert Beimel, Owner  
JIT Tool & Die  
7294 Route 219  
Brockport, PA

Ron Kuleck  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Team PA Foundation  
[ron@teampa.com](mailto:ron@teampa.com)  
814.897.5170 cell  
814.744.8694 fax