

September 4, 2018

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write as members of the Michigan business community – employers of all sizes and across industries – to express our support for refugees resettling in the United States. We urge you to consider the positive contributions refugees make in our communities as you determine the number of refugee entries for fiscal year 2019.

Refugees are vital to the continuing prosperity of our communities – they pay taxes, help grow our economy, and bring unique skillsets, experiences, and insights. They improve our state's quality of life and are helping shape Michigan's opportunities for continued growth. Collectively, we have hired over 5,000 refugees since 2010 through our partnership with Bethany Christian Services.

Bethany is an international child and family social services organization, headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We support their mission to protect and enhance the lives of children and families around the world. To serve refugee families resettling in the United States, Bethany has a network of nearly 500 businesses that employ refugees, helping them become productive and contributing residents. We value our refugee employees, and we hope to continue hiring refugees for years to come.

Because of the employment services Bethany provides refugees, we have been able to hire dedicated workers who often have the desire and ability to move up in our companies. We have found that refugees are hardworking, motivated, and loyal employees. In addition, many refugees have contributed to West Michigan's rich culture by starting their own businesses.

The contributions refugees make to our communities have helped West Michigan thrive. In 2017, Bethany's Refugee Employment Program placed 682 refugees with over 130 employers. Last year alone, refugees collectively earned approximately \$17 million.

We are proud that the United States has a reputation of providing help to refugees – to those who have suffered from violent conflict, at the hands of terrorists, and as victims of trafficking or slavery. Not only does resettling refugees advance our nation's historic ability to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people, it strengthens our communities.

Thank you for considering our views and experience.

Sincerely,

Beverlin Manufacturing
Booking.com
Byrne Electrical Specialist
Daniel S. Slane, LLC
Eenhoorn, LLC
Gill Industries
Grand Rapids Chair

Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Harbor Foam
Hascall Steel Company
Hastings Manufacturing Company
Haworth, Inc.
Heeren, LLC
Herbruck's Poultry Ranch
Herman Miller
Hope Network Industries
Integrated Fabric Resource
JBS
Kenona Industries, LLC
Lacks Enterprises, Inc.
Master Finish
Meyers Cleaning Service, Inc.
Michigan Turkey Producers
MNM Transport Services, LLC
MOKA
Nordic Products, Inc.
Notions Marketing Corporation
SalonCentric
Schupan and Sons, Inc.
SpartanNash
Suburban Inns
Tuff Cover Inc.
The DECC Company, Inc.
The Matthew Agency, LLC
Unist, Inc.
West Michigan Beef Company, LLC
Williamson Employment Services, Inc.