



September 23, 2016

Via FedEx Tracking No.: 7773-0070-9299

The Honorable Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County Judge
100 E. Cano St. 2nd Floor
Edinburg, TX 78539

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2016

COUNTY JUDGE

Dear Judge Garcia:

Universal Metal Products, Inc. has more than 50 years of experience in providing custom metal stampings ranging from complex Fourslide and Multislide to light, medium and heavy duty Punch Press operations. Universal Metal Products specializes in high volume appliance, automotive and industrial metal stampings, and has locations in Cleveland, OH, Toledo, OH, and Pharr, TX.

Universal Metal Products, Inc. intends to seek Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) subzone designation for their manufacturing facility located at 101 W. Eldora Road in Pharr, TX. Universal Metal Products believes that with FTZ procedures it can achieve operational efficiencies and maintain or possibly expand its manufacturing operations in the Pharr, TX area. Such potential expansion could create job opportunities for the citizens of the City of Pharr and its neighboring cities, driving a positive economic impact for the region.

The U.S. Foreign Trade Zone Program is a federal incentive program designed to encourage business activity, jobs and investment in the US. The program is administered by the Department of Commerce, and foreign trade zone locations are specifically designated by the Department of Commerce. These locations are considered outside of the customs territory of the United States, which gives business the opportunity to operate with customs treatment of imported goods equivalent to operations conducted offshore.

While the primary benefit to a business operating in a foreign trade zone relates to customs, there are some non-customs benefits. Of particular importance in Texas, goods which are imported into a foreign trade zone from outside the US, or held in a foreign trade zone pending export, are considered to be in International commerce and are exempt from local property tax by federal law. Because local taxing authorities are affected by the exemption from local property tax, we are required by law to obtain the concurrence or non-objection from each of these parties.

Universal Metal Products, Inc. respectfully requests a letter of support or non-objection for FTZ designation from Hidalgo County. The letter of support should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Trade Zones Board as follows:

Mr. Andrew McGilvray
Executive Secretary
Foreign-Trade Zones Board
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW. Room 21013
Washington, DC 20230

RECEIVED

SEP 3 7 2016

COUNTY JUDGE

Please forward the letter of support or non-objection to eva@braumillerconsulting.com or to the following address:

Ms. Adrienne Braumiller
Braumiller Law Group
5220 Spring Valley Road, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75254

Thank you for your consideration of this request and support of the local manufacturing operations in the City of Pharr and Hidalgo County. Please contact Eva Tomlinson at eva@braumillerconsulting.com or Adrienne Braumiller at adrienne@braumillerlaw.com with any questions. Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Braumiller can also be reached by phone at 214-348-9306.

Best regards,

Adrienne
Braumiller

Digitally signed by Adrienne Braumiller
DN: cn=Adrienne Braumiller,
o=Braumiller Law Group, PLLC, ou,
email=adrienne@braumillerlaw.com,
c=US
Date: 2016.09.23 10:10:08 -0500

Adrienne Braumiller, Partner
Braumiller Law Group, PLLC

Cc: Mr. Scott Seaholm, Chairman / CEO, Universal Metal Products, Inc.