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To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to provide my recommendation for Dean Utendorf as he seeks employment outside of FRAM Filtration.

I began working with Dean in 2006 at the FRAM Filtration Test Lab in Perrysburg, OH first as his peer then as his acting manager since 2013. After several changes of ownership in late 2019, it was announced that the FRAM facility in Perrysburg, OH would be closing due to business restructuring. Unfortunately, this restructuring cost FRAM many talented employees - Dean included.

During all the years I spent working with Dean, it was apparent from upper management on down that his opinions, input, and testing methodology were never in question. He was sought out to assist by not only his peers, but Product Engineering and Engineering Management also.

He has a broad skillset with great attention to detail and is quick to learn any new methods or technology that come his way. He was the first to adapt 5-S principles to his primary testing areas which were then used by management as "examples" as to how the Test Lab at FRAM should "look". He will be a valuable addition to any operation, and I have no doubts he will begin to deliver his trademark exceptional performance immediately.

If I can answer any questions or provide further feedback, please feel free to contact me as listed below.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirk Heckathorn".

Kirk Heckathorn

Supervisor, Testing and Development

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