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As a deep draw metal stamping business, we are in a niche market and have a workforce with specific talents and skills that we cannot afford to lose; however, we are not shielded from business fluctuations. In our type of business, we may experience extended decreases in business demands resulting in our need to address our workforce.

When the Shared Work program expanded in July 2014 to include part-time employees and a reduction range between 10 – 60%, it made things for our company so much easier. Having the ability to address changes in specific areas in our company rather than a board application was fantastic and extremely helpful. The wide range of reimbursement percentage of unemployment benefits was very accommodating as our demand changes over time. Since the program is easily adjustable to the workload that we receive, it made payroll extremely easy to do.

For our employees, the ease of access is wonderful. The employees are able to submit their required documentation to us, the company, receive their unemployment benefits on a debit card or direct deposit and retain their position with the company and their health benefits – and for our employees that was key! While no employee wants their hours reduced, the Shared Work program takes the bite out of the process and softens the impact of the change. Some employees even suggested staying on Shared Work because it allowed for an easier schedule while receiving some benefits from unemployment.

In addition to the many benefits the Shared Work program has offered our company, I would be remised in not mentioning the ease of working with the Shared Work program staff. They are attentive to details, quick to respond to questions and very professional. Since working with the program, I have and continue to recommend the program to other employers as well.