

December 7, 2009

Apprenticeship and Skill Improvement Program  
Local 150 Operating Engineers  
19800 W. South Arsenal Road  
Wilmington, IL 60481

Dear ASIP,

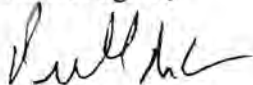
I want to thank you for the opportunity to improve on my skills through the training site. I am an operator who worked for family most of my life. My dad and Uncle George taught me the excavating world. They put me on a tractor when I was 9 years old (1959 Hough 50). I learned to finish grade with an International 175 hi-lift at the age of 12.

Many tractors and years later at the age of 46 I went to the training site. I was amazed at the size, and more amazed at the people in it. Mike Rorex has a great group of people. The advice and help I received from Zip, Dominick, Pebbles, Mike, Chris, Glen, Emily, Stacey and Ruth will never be forgotten. I spent over 100 hours at the training site and I honestly feel that I am a better operator because of the training that I received.

I work for Lenny Hoffman Excavating and when I'm finishing a jobsite I say to myself, "Would Zip approve of this grading job?" Or when I dig for sewer and water, "Am I operating smooth enough for Dominick"? Every time I operate these two keep popping up in my mind.

I enjoyed my time at the training site. I learned a lot and had fun doing it.

Thanks again,



Pernell Rion