

SAMPLE BUSINESS & LABOR PIECP NOTIFICATION LETTER

On Department Letterhead, One letter each to:

- Local Business Organization or Statewide Business Organization if no local exists
- Local Labor Council or State Labor Council if no local exists

Dear [Labor or Industry organization rep]:

Under the authority of (local/state statute or rule), private sector companies may employ inmates incarcerated in correctional facilities to manufacture goods and provide services for sale to the public through [name of local program]. Under the guidelines of [name of jurisdiction] these businesses are managed by their owners and staff, offering inmates training, work experience, and income. The tax burden of corrections is reduced through deductions from employees' wages for room and board. In addition, deductions for victims' compensation and court ordered financial obligations provide inmates with the means to repay their debts to their victims, the criminal justice system, and support their families.

Federal legislation created the Private Sector/Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP), allowing operations such as those in [name of jurisdiction] to sell prison-made goods in interstate commerce provided the companies meet certain criteria including:

- Paying their employees wages comparative to those paid for similar jobs in the area;
- Providing workers compensation coverage; and
- Notifying local business and labor organizations of their plans to enter into interstate commerce.

[Name of jurisdiction] is in the process of certifying a private sector industry under PIECP. [Company] producing [Product line] will operate at [Name of Facility] in [City]. We expect [Number] inmates will be employed as [Job Titles].

If you have questions regarding this new operation or PIECP, please call [local PIECP contact person]. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

[Title of local Correctional Industries Manager]

cc: [Department Head]