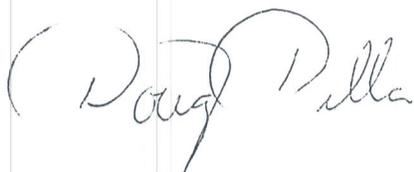


In 2008 I contacted Matt regarding Bevin Bros. Mfg. At that time, I had been the general foreman at Bevin Bros for 17 years. I knew that Matt was a businessman in Kentucky and I thought he could help. When we spoke in 2008, it was unfortunately to discuss the dismal shape of Bevin Bros. Mfg.

Matt's uncle who owned the company had been having health issues and there was no top level management to step in and run the company. The company was in debt and was not meeting its obligations. Matt came to visit and to see what he could do to help. He stepped in and started putting money and expertise into the business. A modest turnaround was evident almost immediately, especially considering the years of decline.

With his interest apparent, employees and long time customers found a reason for optimism. This turnaround took place even before Matt took actual ownership from his uncle in August of 2011. I know better than anyone the shape the company was in before Matt took over. At most the company was just weeks from closing its doors. That would have been the loss of jobs for appx 20 people, some who had worked at Bevin Bros as long as 60 years. It would have also been a great loss to the town and to America since this was the last bell maker left. Even our customers, such as the Salvation Army, would have been forced to start buying their bells from China and India.

After things began to improve and the old bills and taxes had all been paid off, the company suffered another major setback when it was destroyed by a fire in May of 2012. This was a huge loss, but did not stop Matt from stepping forward again to save the company. He continues to take positive steps that will ensure the company will keep prospering and creating jobs for American workers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Pella". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.