



**STEW LEONARD JR.**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
May 11, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of working with Aurora Contractors, Inc. on several construction projects over the past few years. Aurora Contractors is a family-owned company, as is Stew Leonard's, and they take a personal interest in ensuring every client is treated as part of the project team. Each and every employee of Aurora takes immense pride in their hands-on approach to each project.

In 2007, Aurora completed construction of the Newington, Connecticut location for Stew Leonard's Farmers Market. This \$24,000,000 conversion of an existing 100,000 square foot building into our 135,000 square foot Market required Aurora to install over 30,000 square feet of refrigerated space. Aurora installed a hybrid glycol refrigeration package that allows us to separately control our packaging, freezer, dairy, produce and meat freezer spaces with temperature range requirements between -10 to 55 degrees.

From the very beginning of the project Aurora played a vital role, assisting with design development and Value Engineering. Significant upgrades to the existing structure needed to be implemented to not only meet Stew Leonard's more intense use of the structure and to comply with current and more stringent building codes. By employing equipment normally used milling highways, Aurora removed existing floor slabs.

Aurora then utilized the millings generated from this process as sub-base material for our 10" concrete floors, saving not only the disposal & trucking costs of the existing concrete floors, but also the costs of supplying and trucking in new sub-base materials. This same ingenuity was employed by Aurora Contractors as they led our design team towards the use of knee bracing, web stiffeners and plate welding to fortify the existing structure, in lieu of the wholesale replacement of existing columns and beams. The net result of these efforts by Aurora is that both time and money were saved, enabling that money to be allocated towards our trademark interior finish package. Aurora's attention to detail has produced a facility that distinguishes Stew Leonard's from all other food service retailers.

I am impressed by Aurora Contractor's breadth of knowledge of the construction industry and the local labor market. I can wholeheartedly recommend Aurora Contractors as construction manager for your next project.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stew Leonard Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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BEST COMPANIES to work for in America