



Public Employees Local 71

March 20, 2012

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Business Manager/
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RE: Support for Senate Bill 224 & House Bill 327

Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Member:

For almost 40 years Public Employees Local 71 has had the privilege to serve as a representative for the Labor Trades and Crafts positions with the State of Alaska and have added other Public Employee groups along the way. During this time we have worked with the employers to come to agreements on tough issues with our members and in most cases both sides have come away feeling better about the situation than going in.

What we do as a labor union is ensure that our union members will have representation in the work place as set out in the National Labor Relations Act and further expanded in the Weingarten decision that states that a union member had the right to have a union representative at investigatory meetings that could lead to discipline.

Public Employees deserve the same rights that union members in the private sector enjoy. It has been our experience that having the employee's representative present at such meetings expedites the resolution of grievances as well as fosters a cooperative relationship between the employer, the employee and the union.

We at Public Employees' Local 71 strongly urge you to support and employee's right to be represented in the work place.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnson
Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer