



January 31, 2018

Honorable Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Capital Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2095

Dear Honorable Representative Tuck,

I am writing you today on behalf of the company that I founded, Arctic Solar Ventures, in support of House Bill 142 "*An Act relating to unemployment insurance benefits; increasing the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit rate; and providing for an effective date.*" HB 142 seeks to increase the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount (MWBA) of unemployment insurance payments. The current MWBA is \$370. The new rate starting retroactive to January 1, 2018 would be \$458. Increasing again Jan 1 2019 up to \$510.

Arctic Solar Ventures is a residential and commercial solar photovoltaic design and installation company, headquartered in Anchorage, and we employ Journeyman Carpenters as solar pv installers.

Construction is the lifeblood of the Alaskan economy, and we need to ensure we are treating these workers fairly and equitably during times they are not doing continuous work. Construction by nature is not continuous and cyclical. We cannot keep everyone employed all of the time. In order to maintain a livable wage between project work, we must do our part to increase our states competitiveness with a livable wage that is in-line with our living expenses. Without this, workers will travel to other states leaving Alaska without a workforce.

We hope that you, the House, and the Senate will fully support House Bill 142 so Alaskans can have a better between-job living wage. Thank you for supporting this critical legislative action that will enable positive change for the future of Alaska.

Best Regards,

Stephen Trimble, Founder & CEO
Arctic Solar Ventures Corporation

January 31, 2018

Honorable Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Capital Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2095

Dear Honorable, Representative Tuck,

As a life-long Alaska resident, small business owner, general contractor, and advocate for employees, I am writing in support of House Bill 142:

“An act relating to unemployment insurance benefits; increasing the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit rate; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 142 seeks to increase the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount of unemployment insurance payments. The current MWBA is \$370. The new rate starting retroactive to January 1, 2018 would be \$458. Increasing again January 1, 2019 up to \$510.

With cuts to the state’s budget and lower oil prices deterring industry activity (reduced residential construction, state capital projects, and oil & gas-related construction), general contractors are looking outside of Alaska for jobs (construction is picking up in other parts of the United States).

Now more than ever, as business owners, and Alaskans, it is our responsibility to keep a talented workforce in the State of Alaska. We can’t afford nor do we want to lose our workforce or the money and time Alaska and Alaskan companies have invested (training programs, schools, on-the-job training). Alaska currently ranks 39th for MWBA but is the 5th most expensive state to live in (how does that make any sense)? The average cost of rent in Anchorage is \$1,135 / month. Let’s break this down in simplest terms:

Rent: \$1,135

Vehicle Insurance: \$75

Phone (need phone and internet so you can be online applying for jobs and contacting employers): \$100

Food: \$200

Gas (drive to interviews): \$75

House Bills (cable, gas, electricity): \$200

Total = \$1,785

Total MWBA benefits (w/current \$370 rate) = \$1,480

Total MWBA benefits (w/ proposed \$458 rate) = \$1,832

NOW is the time for Alaskans to stand up for Alaskans. Unemployment Insurance is an important tool to help get Alaskans through this low and wait for the next big project to come to Alaska when this won’t be such a worry. What “most” unemployed workers want are jobs and paychecks, not unemployment checks.

Your support of this bill will do much to insure the survival, stability, and growth of construction in Alaska

and in companies like mine and a talented workforce.

Thank you,



Jackie Savina
(907) 360-4535
jsavina@arcticsolarventures.com

Kendra Kloster

From: Frank Mucci <director@ubctrainingak.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 8:48 AM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: In Support of HB 142

Chris,

I am writing this brief statement in support of HB 142.

As Training Director of the Alaska Carpenters Apprenticeship Program, I see over 200 Alaskans pass through our doors annually, training diligently to acquire the skills to give them and their families a better life. Their training however, doesn't come without great sacrifice. Apprentices must weather six weeks a year of no income while attending class. As a former apprentice, father, and family man, I can attest to the fact that Alaska's current unemployment insurance benefit, although nice to have, isn't nearly enough to cover rent, put fuel in the car, and food in the bellies of our children during these gaps in employment.

Through the years I've traveled around the globe and back, through these endeavors, Alaska's the only place I've found on our great green earth where you'll pay over \$3.00 at the local grocer for a bell pepper. Our heightened cost of living is measured in things like "cost of rent", but it's really all the little things we consume on a day to day basis that adds up. This makes it much harder for Alaskan families to get ahead or stay on pace with their bills. Most young families I encounter are doing all they can to simply *not* fall behind. A gap in employment often proves to be devastating. This often deters workers from programs like ours that enhance their skills that helps them earn a living wage. This is due in part, to the fact that the help that is there for them during their training is embarrassingly outdated and completely insufficient.

Thank you for your time. I am in support of HB 142.

Frank Mucci
Director of Training
Alaska Carpenters Training Trust (ACTT)
8751 King Street
Anchorage, AK, 99515
office: (907) 344-1541
cell : (907) 351-2751
director@ubctrainingak.net

Kendra Kloster

From: Justin Jackson <justin@ubctrainingak.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 9:34 AM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: HB 142

Honorable Chris Tuck,

My name is Justin Jackson I am a proud member of Local 1281 union carpenters. I am writing you in support of HB 142. One of the main reason that I support this bill is because as you know the construction industry is not always full time employment. I am also a father of two beautiful girls and when work is slow the unemployment benefits that I receive are nice but not enough. Raising the weekly amount would be very helpful to myself as well as the rest of the workers in Alaska.

Best Regards,

Justin Jackson

Kendra Kloster

From: alokgyawali@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 12:25 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Cc: justin@ubctrainingak.net
Subject: Raising UI to 50%

Hi Chris,

I am an 2nd year apprentice at Sactc. I have a 5 month old son and it would help a lot to get by if the UI was to go up 50%.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Alok Gyawali

Kendra Kloster

From: tyrellwa <tyrellwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 7:29 AM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck; jon@ubctrainingak.net
Subject: Hb 142 raising ui benefits

I am writing in support of hb 142 raising ui benefits. Construction work is always temporary, we are working toward being out of work. UI helps with expences while apprentices are in training. Raising UI benefits to 50 percent of average weekly wages will bring Alaska in line with the majority of the rest of the country. Raising UI benefits will also help single parents, and single income households, between jobs.

Sincerely

William Tyrell

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Express 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Kendra Kloster

From: Ian Quint <ak_ian@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 7:19 AM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Cc: jon@ubctrainingak.net
Subject: HB 142 raising u.i. benefits

I am writing in support of HB142 raising u.i. benefits.

I feel that the current cap of u.i. benefits does not reflect the cost of living in alaska.

My work can have lulls or slow down during different times of the year or be seasonally dependent. I rely on u.i. benefits during these times to make ends meet.

Also as a local 1281 apprentice I am required to take 4 to 6 weeks of classes where as I also depend on these benefits to help cover this gap between working paychecks. The cost of living is increasing and so should the cap on these benefits. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ian Quint

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Kendra Kloster

From: Keith Lohry <bamfak49@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck; jon@ubctrainingak.net
Subject: HB 142 Raising ui bens

In support of HB 142

In Construction work most of the time is temporary

As apprentices we have to go through 4-6 weeks of training each year and the ui as of right now barely pays a single bill.

Raising the UI to 50% of the average weekly wage rates will bring us in line with the majority of the rest of the country and help make it easier to get by when in training rather then having to pick and choose what to pay and what not to pay.

Kendra Kloster

From: michaelduanerogers1969 <michaelduanerogers1969@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 4:34 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: In 142 raising U.I. benifits!

Hello ,my name is Michael Rogers I'm an apprentice in carpenters local 1281 ,I'm writing in support of in HB 142,I have school/training 4-6 Weeks every year and unemployment is barly enough to get by,I live off of it while in school,I have kids and rent and truck payment and 370 a week does not cover all of that ,most other whatever at least 700 a week !thank you for your help in this matter and for supporting local unions and Alaskans !!!!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Kendra Kloster

From: Dan Matthews <dan@ubctrainingak.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 2:45 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: support for HB142

Dear Mr.Tuck,

I am writing this email in support of HB142,which i think is long over due.I am the president of Carpenters Local 1281 with over 1000 members statewide. It is no secret that much of our work is seasonal and we basically "work ourselves out of a job" on every project. Our members count on these benefits to help make ends meet when there is a break in the work cycle. The increased benefit would help our members maintain a respectable lifestyle for them and their families and bring us closer to national averages.. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Daniel R. Matthews
President: Carpenters Local 1281

Kendra Kloster

From: Jonathan dunbar <jonnydunski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: support HB 142

I am writing you in support of HB 142 to raise Unemployment Insurance.

I am a construction worker that only works a little over half the year and most years there is a down time that can be longer than expected between jobs. Our UI benefits are no where near what they should be giving our cost of living. There are states that have nearly triple the amount of ours if not more. I am also an instructor and apprentices have to go 4-6 weeks without work and to think they could survive on 350 (before taxes) a week with our cost of living is impossible. Some are fathers and mothers and need help to sustain through the down time in between their Job/Career of building this beautiful state and constructing buildings that allow other employers a place to employ workers. It would seem that raising UI to 50% of the average weekly wage rates would put Alaska in line with the majority of the rest of the country.

Thank you
Jonathan Dunbar
7800 Wisteria St.
Anchorage, AK 99502