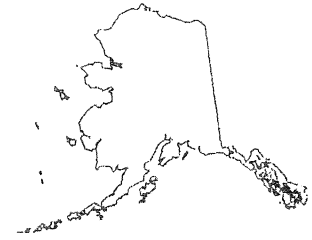




**LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
LOCAL 341**

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April 7, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson
State Capital Room 24
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Laborers' Local 341 Opposes House Bill 384

Dear Representative Olson,

As the Chairman of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, I urge you to not move HB 384, the bill that would supersede the minimum wage initiative set for the August primary election. More than 43,000 Alaskan voters signed the initiative and have made it clear that they would appreciate the opportunity to vote for themselves whether or not to increase Alaska's minimum wage. I request only that the legislature support the right of citizens to engage in direct democracy, and therefore oppose any further movement of HB 384.

As the Business Manager of a Union with more than 2,200 members, and someone who has dedicated his career to fighting for the basic rights of working Alaskans, I certainly applaud any effort to address the minimum wage being earned by Alaskans both old and young. There is no question that the current minimum wage of \$7.75 per hour is inadequate and leaves thousands of Alaskans in poverty year after year. HB 384, however, seems all too similar to what Alaska has seen before. The Legislature's shameful move in 2003 to gut the minimum wage bill passed only a year earlier, a bill that supplanted the 2002 initiative effort, is still far too fresh in the minds of the voting public. To let history repeat itself would be a grim day in Alaska politics.

Laborers' Local 341 strongly opposes HB 384, and requests that this bill not move out of committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A.J. "Joey" Merrick II
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers' Local 341

JOEY MERRICK
BUSINESS MANAGER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

RON MCPHETERS
PRESIDENT

RON AXTELL
VICE-PRESIDENT

LARRY MOONEY
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

STACY ALLEN
HEALTHCARE UNIT
REPRESENTATIVE