ALASKA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS

Laborer's International Union of North America

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February 22, 2017

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Sent via email: Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov

Subject: Support for the Real ID bill

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

The Alaska Laborers urge you to support Governor Walker's HB 74 to provide Alaskans the option to obtain a license or ID that complies with the Real ID Act of 2005. This bill ensures that Alaska workers can access their work sites on military bases and federal facilities and that Alaskans can obtain the proper ID for TSA security checkpoints. We therefore respectfully request that the House move forward with the Real ID bill in an expedited manner.

On June 7, 2017, a standard Alaska driver's license will not meet the requirements for non-military personnel to access military bases and secure-entrance federal buildings. The Real ID bill is a much-needed fix to this problem. Passing the Real ID bill is imperative for construction contractors to have a ready local workforce and for Alaskans to have the proper ID for air travel and accessing their work sites on military installations.

The Alaska Laborers represent around 5,500 workers across the state. Our members clean, maintain, and build our military projects, including projects at Eielson AFB, JBER, and Clear AFS. But hundreds of these workers could be restricted from their work sites if they are not afforded the choice to obtain a form of identification that complies with the Real ID Act. The following are a few examples of groups of workers whose jobs would be impeded without a Real ID compliant form of identification:

- Hundreds of workers employed by construction contractors that perform military construction on military bases across the state;

- Around 145 members working for the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs who need to access military bases and federal facilities for their work;
- Members providing custodial services at six schools on military bases; and
- Our members performing maintenance and other services for contractors on military bases.

Despite the recent economic downturn, military construction in Interior Alaska is expected to be a bright spot in our economy with well over $1 billion in investment during the next ten years. But to guarantee that local workers have the opportunity to build the upcoming military construction projects such as hangars and radar systems, Alaskans need a form of identification that complies with the Real ID Act to gain access to their work sites on military bases. Without passing the Real ID bill, contractors may be forced to hire more non-resident workers who have compliant IDs from their home states.

Not only is the Real ID bill critical for Alaska employers and workers for work-site access, but most Alaskans will be affected because a Real ID license or federal ID will be required at TSA security checkpoints. By January 22, 2018, Real ID compliant IDs will be required at TSA security checkpoints unless Alaska receives another extension by passing legislation to show it is working toward compliance. By October 1, 2020, a Real ID Act compliant form of identification will be required at TSA security checkpoints, and the Homeland Security Agency will not grant additional extensions. As a result, passing the Real ID bill is necessary for air travel including for our workers who fly the North Slope.

We look forward to working with you on a solution to this critical issue. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like additional information.

Best,

Dennis Moen

Joey Merrick

Kevin Pomeroy