

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
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KNUTE ANDERSON
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February 2, 2018

To: Chair and members of House Finance Committee

Re: HB 142 Unemployment Compensation Benefits

Honorable committee members:

First of all, thank you for the opportunity for public testimony on this bill.

I am writing this letter in support of HB 142 as it has been far too long since our Alaska unemployment benefit amounts have seen an increase.

Without this increase our members are not able to remain here in the state awaiting their next job call. Journeymen journey to where the work is booming, and when leaving Alaska it is much more difficult to return. This loss of workers who travel south affects not just IBEW membership but all trades as it creates a growing deficit of manpower statewide. Furthermore, many of these workers may not return for some time, if they return at all.

With this increase, we hope to retain a larger majority of our skilled workforce. We've invested more than just dollars over many years of training provided to our members and our workforce is vital to the Alaskan economy.

We urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter.

Respectfully,

Rodney Hesson
Assistant Business Manager
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Juneau office