



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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Representative Zack Fields
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 1, 2022

Re: House Bill 132 Version N

Dear Representative Fields,

Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC) has proudly served as the voice of Alaska's commercial construction industry since 1949. As the state's leading construction trade association, we provide our members products and services designed to improve and grow their business, and enhance the professionalism of Alaska's construction industry.

Our organization has already started advocating for more training opportunities because of the expected surge in federal construction dollars coming to the state. As you are aware, Alaska is expected to receive approximately \$4.6 billion in construction spending, not including Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds. We know competition for labor will be fierce. Workers from Alaska are immensely valuable to our state's construction scene. That is why AGC recently launched a campaign and website focused on educating those considering a career in our industry and getting them ready to be boots on the ground in 2-4 years.

AGC is encouraged to see that this bill focuses on developing Alaska's next generation of skilled workers and that it recognizes the skilled trade as an essential, necessary, and accomplished career choice. Solidifying the linkage between secondary schools and apprenticeship programs enhances the opportunity and exposure of diversified career paths for all.

Specific to legislation, for AGC to support an apprenticeship policy, it must promote all opportunities including federally approved apprentice programs, on-the-job, and robust vocational and technical options, including secondary education. We believe HB 132 Version N currently meets these criteria.

We are neutral on the apprentice tax credit provisions, but support passage of HB 132, regardless. The bill, as currently crafted, is a positive step in the right direction and should lead to more Alaskans becoming aware of the training opportunities available to them.

Thank you for involving AGC in the conversation, and for your work to ensure Alaska remains competitive in training workers for the increase in building activity we know is coming.

Thank you,

Alicia Amberg
Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska