



Building & Construction Trades of South-Central Alaska

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Bronson Frye, I serve as the President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Southcentral Alaska. I'm writing this letter today in support of House Bill 186 and the creation of a Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program.

While the construction industry has always been a major economic driver in our state, providing quality work opportunities for women and men in Alaska, an unfortunate reality is that some unscrupulous construction contractors engage in a variety of business models that victimize their workers.

This includes outright wage theft on prevailing wage work, not paying overtime, or misclassifying employees as "independent subcontractors" so that the employer don't have to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees in these inherently dangerous construction jobs.

Alaska is a vast state, and we are looking at billions of dollars of infrastructure money coming to our state. We're going to see a truly generational boom in the construction industry over the next decade - and we can't afford to let working families be victimized by unscrupulous and dishonest construction contractors.

This is where the Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program can be a tremendous asset. These Volunteers can assist the Dept. Of Labor in identifying problem areas and problem contractors where workers are getting cheated and honest contractors can't compete because their competitors are gaming the system.

It's worth noting that HB 186 expressly forbids any solicitation from competing employers and expressly forbids any sort of union promotion or organizing from taking place when someone is serving as a Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program.

We all know that Alaska is an amazing place to live and work – and we should do everything we can to keep it that way!

I urge you to support House Bill 186 and please vote it out of your committee.

In Solidarity,

-A. Bronson Frye

Bronson Frye

~P.O. Box 242122, Anchorage Alaska, 99524~