

# Juneau Building Trades Council



**Brad Austin**  
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS  
LOCAL 262

**Corey Baxter**  
OPERATING ENGINEERS  
LOCAL 302

**Trenton English**  
LABORERES  
LOCAL 942

**Jesse Young**  
INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
LOCAL 1547

**Chris Dimond**  
CARPENTERS  
LOCAL 1281

**Anthony Ladd**  
IRONWORKERS  
LOCAL 751

**Bronson Frye**  
PAINTERS  
LOCAL 1140

**Chris Dimond**  
PILEDRIVERS & DIVERS  
LOCAL 2520

**Randy Golding**  
SHEETMETAL WORKERS  
LOCAL 23

**Antwon Dungey**  
TEAMSTERS  
LOCAL 959

**Todd Mitchell**  
HEAT/FROST INSULATORS  
LOCAL 97

January 25, 2024

House Labor and Commerce  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99824

To House Labor and Commerce,

My name is Brad Austin, and I am writing to your committee on behalf of the Juneau Building trades and all our affiliated construction trades in support of House Bill 186.

Human labor trafficking, wage theft, tax fraud, worker misclassification and other crimes of this type are rampant across the construction industry. These practices hurt all workers, they hurt contractors who operate within the laws, and they hurt our State.

We are aware of the budget issues our state has been facing, and the direct result those budget issues have had on our state's ability to ensure labor laws are being followed. House bill 186 is a great example of how a private/public partnership can help ensure the entire Alaska construction industry is protected from the above-mentioned crimes. Alaska is on the precipice of an historic construction boom, and we have been failing to enforce our labor laws. The crimes mentioned above are only going to grow if we don't get a handle on this situation now.

I have read through some of the letters of opposition, and I have not seen one legitimate concern. These volunteers will have to adhere to strict Department rules and guidelines. The premise that contractors are going to send volunteers to "spy" on their competitors is laughable, especially regarding public construction projects. There can be no solicitation, there can be no unionizing, there can be no sharing of confidential information, business practices are not going to be attacked. This is simply a way to help the department enforce laws already enacted.

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The idea that "this could be a pathway into oversight into non-construction industries" should not be a concern, rather it should be a point of positivity. As the great late Labor Commissioner Tom Cashen famously said, "Alaska should not be a chickenshit place to work" Enforcing and protecting Alaska's workforce and honest businesses should be WELCOMED!

I would suggest that the committee look at adding an amendment to include the ability for volunteers to verify certificates of fitness and mechanical administer licenses. This may already be covered but I would suggest the committee ensure that they are.

The members of the Juneau Building Trades are grateful for the forward thinking of this committee and your clear desire to protect Alaska, and we look forward to this bill passing and becoming law.

In Solidarity,



Brad Austin  
President Juneau Building Trades

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