



WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Sean Hartranft

President

Frank Hawk

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Frank Zambrano

Vice President



59	Spokane, WA
82	Great Falls, MT
96	NW Millwrights
196	Pile Drivers, WA
206	Seattle, WA
213	Los Angeles, CA
323	So. Los Angeles, CA
360	So. Puget Sound, WA
425	No. Puget Sound, WA
503	Portland, OR
541	Eugene, OR
555	Colorado
562	Long Beach, CA
619	San Diego, CA
635	Boise, ID
661	Sylmar, CA
714	Buena Park, CA
721	Whittier, CA
743	Bakersfield, CA
801	Utah
805	Camarillo, CA
808	Idaho Falls, ID
909	Ontario, CA
951	Riverside, CA
971	Reno, NV
1136	Kettle Falls, WA
1243	Fairbanks, AK
1281	Anchorage, AK
1319	New Mexico
1607	Millwrights
1912	Arizona
1977	Las Vegas, NV
2520	Pile Drivers & Divers, AK
2761	McCleary, WA
2851	La Grande, OR
2949	Roseburg, OR

March 27, 2024

Representative Laddie Shaw
Chair, House State Affairs Committee
120 4th St, Gruenberg 120
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Shaw,

I am writing on behalf of Carpenters Union Locals 1243, 1281, and 2520, proudly representing over 1,000 hardworking tradespeople who make significant contributions to the great State of Alaska. As a state that values its workforce and prioritizes safety, we believe HB 173 is an assault on our communities and local workforce.

Prevailing wage laws have long been a tool responsible for uplifting communities, safeguarding the rights of ALL construction workers, and protecting local businesses from unscrupulous out-of-state contractors. These laws have been proven to reduce wage disparities and prevent workers from being underpaid, thereby improving the living standards for workers and their families. Prevailing wage law also serves as a powerful protection for our local economy, leveling the playing field and ensuring that tax dollars flow to local contractors who, in turn, attract a highly skilled local workforce.

Unfortunately, voting in favor of HB 173 would shift the focus of construction contractors toward labor costs rather than core competencies and efficiencies, leading to several unintended consequences. Increasing the current threshold from \$25,000 to \$150,000 as the bill proposes risks compromising the quality of work, exacerbating inequality, undermining contractor accountability, and diminishing fair competition.

Contrary to the narrative that raising the threshold would stimulate job growth, our experience suggests otherwise. Lowering the threshold would likely discourage individuals from pursuing careers in skilled trades due to reduced wages, thereby shrinking the pool of skilled workers available for projects. Moreover, lowering the threshold would reduce the number of projects subject to oversight, facilitating wage theft and other labor violations by unscrupulous contractors, to the detriment of responsible local contractors who rely on fair competition.

If HB 173 were to pass, it would inevitably result in reductions in worker wages, benefits, and apprenticeship training opportunities. Contractors would prioritize short-term gains over long-term investments in worker training, healthcare, and retirement security, ultimately undermining the stability and prosperity of our local workforce and businesses.



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We urge you to vote **NO** on HB 173 and stand in defense of our local workforce and businesses.

Sincerely,

Chris Dimond
Government Affairs Representative
Western States Regional Council of Carpenters