



ALASKA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS

勞工國際聯合會
North America

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February 24, 2017

Honorable L & C Committee Members
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 38 Worker Compensation Amendment on Death Cases and PPI Injuries

Dear Honorable Representatives:

Your support for passage of HB 38 protects families of Alaskan workers killed on the job; and for Alaskan workers suffering permanent injuries.

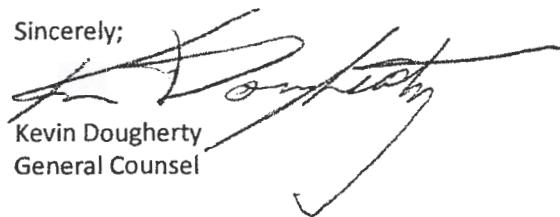
Specifically, Section 4 corrects the embarrassing neglect of prior Legislatures for Death cases wherein the worker was single, yet had grandchildren, parents, or siblings. For over 40 years- since 1968 – this Death benefit has languished at the insulting \$20K for the loss of human life. Sadly, a number of Alaska families have been subject to this insulting statute. For example, the families of Alaskans such 1). **Kerry Brookman** killed while working for our AKRR by an avalanche, 2). **Tyler Kahle** a construction worker killed in Nome, and 3). Anchorage Laborer **Samuel Rey Damn** killed by a truck -- sadly received this outdated, substandard \$20k for the death on the job!

And even worse, after **Abigail Caudle** was killed on the job in Anchorage, the existing Worker Comp statute was used to provide the family zero-no compensation whatsoever-- for their daughter's death. [See Alaska Work Comp Appeals Com'n, Decision No. 215 (2015). That Decision deferred responsibility to the Alaska Legislature to address this tragedy. See footnote 32.

Secondly, section 2 also corrects an outdated statute that unfairly impacts Alaskans disabled from workplace accidents. Specifically, the Worker compensation amount for a Permanent Disability in A.S. 23.30.190 has not been adjusted since the year 2000- and thus has eroded by inflation! Your HB 38 Bill rightly corrects this inequity for injured Alaskans.

We appreciate your work for passage of this Legislation for Alaska families!

Sincerely;



Kevin Dougherty
General Counsel

Attachments: Abigail Caudle Obituary/ADN article
Re: Kerry Brookman; "Avalanche Kills Railroad worker"
Letter of Mother Michelle Kahle/son Tyler killed in Nome
1968 Alaska Legislative Amendment
1915 Alaska Territorial Legislature