



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 302 • Washington • Alaska • Idaho • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager & General Vice President*

April 23, 2025

House Transportation Committee

Re: HB 186 Apprentice Labor in Public Projects

Dear Representative Carrick,

On behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 302 Union, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 186 which seeks to enhance the use of apprentice labor in public construction projects. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring that our workforce is equipped with the skills necessary to meet the demands of our industry.

The requirement within HB 186 for construction contracts over \$2.5 million to dedicate not less than 15% of labor hours to apprentices will create significant opportunities for individuals to gain essential training and hands-on experience in various trades. This investment in apprentices not only prepares new workers for successful careers but also strengthens the overall workforce in Alaska and helps to address the ongoing labor shortages we face in Alaska. Supporting HB 186 aligns with our union's commitment to fostering a skilled, safe, and competitive workforce. By utilizing apprenticeship programs, we are investing in the future of our industry and the economic stability of our communities. We urge the members of the House Transportation Committee to support HB 186 and help us build a stronger workforce for Alaska.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Corey Baxter
District 8 Representative
907-321-4271

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