



April 16, 2025

Representative David Nelson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Alaska House Joint Resolution 20

Dear Representative Nelson,

On behalf of Alaska Works Partnership (AWP), I am writing to express our full support for House Joint Resolution 20, which respectfully encourages the United States Congress to establish hiring goals for apprentices and veteran apprentices on Department of Defense (DOD) construction projects.

As a nonprofit workforce development organization founded in 1996, AWP has spent nearly three decades preparing Alaskans for skilled careers in construction. Our programs - including Alaska's Helmets to Hardhats - are designed to connect veterans, transitioning service members, and active-duty spouses with meaningful employment and apprenticeship pathways. With offices and training centers in Anchorage, Wasilla, and Fairbanks, we work statewide to equip participants with practical trade skills and connect them to apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

Alaska is proud to have the highest percentage of veterans per capita in the nation. Yet many of our veterans face persistent barriers to employment and struggle to transition from military to civilian careers. House Joint Resolution 20 directly addresses these issues by promoting veteran inclusion in DOD construction projects, ensuring that at least 10% of workers in apprenticeship or postsecondary training programs are veterans.

This resolution also speaks to an urgent statewide concern: Alaska is losing its working-age population due to outmigration and demographic shifts. As younger

residents and transitioning service members leave the state in search of better opportunities, Alaska's construction industry faces a critical workforce shortage. By creating secure and well-paying career paths tied to federal projects, HJR 20 will help retain this vital population – particularly veterans - who might otherwise relocate. Ensuring that these skilled individuals stay and thrive in Alaska strengthens our communities and boosts our economic resilience.

HJR 20 aligns perfectly with AWP's mission to increase local hires and develop a homegrown, skilled workforce. It also reinforces our vision for a future in which every Alaskan - especially those who have served - can access quality jobs that sustain families and support strong communities.

We urge the Alaska Legislature to pass HJR 20 and send a clear message to Congress: supporting our veterans means investing in their post-service careers through apprenticeships, workforce training, and access to federally funded projects.

Thank you for your continued advocacy and leadership in promoting meaningful opportunities for Alaska's veterans.

Sincerely,



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