

# Slayden Plumbing & Heating, Incorporated

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March 24, 2009

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 185

Dear Representative Kelly,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Slayden Plumbing's more than 300 Alaskan employees, spouses and children. We are in support of House Bill 185.

Slayden Plumbing & Heating, Inc (SPHI) has been doing business in the State of Alaska since 1979. We have successfully completed numerous projects for: the State of Alaska; Fairbanks North Star Borough; Matsu Borough; Municipality of Anchorage; City of Fairbanks; City of Wasilla; City of Palmer; City of Bethel, City of Nome, some 36 villages through out Alaska; the United States Army; The United States Coast Guard; and the United States Air Force, as a mechanical subcontractor. These projects have all been accomplished with merit contracting and did not require organized labor affiliation. There has never been a labor dispute on any project we have completed since we began business.

Organized labor and other special interest groups have used the threat of labor unrest to coerce public officials into requiring Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) on public projects. We have not experienced any labor disputes in our 30 years of business. Only approximately 35% of construction craft people belong to an organized labor union in Alaska. PLA's very effectively curtail competition, drive up costs, encourages poor performance and delays project completions. PLA's accomplish everything organized labor says they prevent.

**Forced** membership in an organized labor union will cost our Alaskan employees and their families approximately 28% of their gross annual wages. Our employees will gain nothing for this forced contribution of their wages.

The State needs to ensure equal opportunity for all Alaskans, union and non-union alike. The wage standards set forth on all publicly funded projects requires every company to pay the same wage rate on public projects, thus creating an equal opportunity for all companies to compete and ensuring Alaskan craft people a high wage standard, no matter what company is selected.

We are asking your support for the passage of this important legislation.

Very Truly Yours,

*Slayden Plumbing & Heating, Inc.*

**William L. Slayden**

William L. Slayden, President