Konrad Jackson

From: LIO Tok
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 4:50 PM
To: Konrad Jackson
Subject: Written Testimony re: HB37 for House LAC Committee
Importance: High
Attachments: Sam Crocker Written Testimony on HB37.doc

Good Afternoon, Konrad!

Can you ensure that the House Labor & Commerce Committee sees the following testimony from Samuel Crocker regarding HB37? I have also forwarded the testimony to Mr. Crocker's delegation: Representative Salmon and Senator Kookesh. The testimony is attached above, as well. Thank you very much! Jan Jackson, Tok LIO

* * * * *

Hello!

My name is Sam Crocker from Tok, Alaska, District 6C. I am writing to voice my opinion regarding HB37 - RIGHT TO WORK. **This bill should be stopped in its tracks and never be allowed to become law!!**

I am a 30 plus year retired Alaskan Union worker. Union hands have played a major part in the building of Alaska's infrastructure and are necessary to continue to maintain the skill level and quality of work performed in our state. We have been instrumental in implementing the safety standards that have made working in the trades a safer profession! I continue to work at my Union, teaching classes on construction in my spare time in order to share what has been taught to me over the years.

HB 37 - Right-to-work

•• Right-to-work laws lower wages 5-10%.
•• Right-to-work would harm Alaska's working families (union and non-union) during these trying economic times.
•• Right-to-work hurts Alaska's businesses. People who earn less money, spend less money.

What this bill will do is give you the right to work "for less". I have seen the impact of this type of legislation in Montana while on vacation where I took part-time work as a "Carpenter Foreman" running a crew. I was making $9.00 dollars per hour, as opposed to the wages I had been making here at home in Alaska as a Journeyman Carpenter making $26.00 an hour. We can not afford to allow this type of legislation to be passed here in our state; its hard enough to make ends meet without lowering the wages of the working class to accommodate corporate interests and greed. A fair and honest wage for an honest day's work is necessary for all to prosper in our state. As union hands, we already work for a reduced rate on the North Slope to give the oil companies a "Break on Labor costs", even though they made billions last year... Enough is enough!!

This bill talks about getting rid of the "Collective Bargaining Process". The "Collective Bargaining Agreement " procedure is done in a democratic process with secret ballots to enable people to vote how they feel and not be coerced or intimidate into joining /or not joining a labor organization. And in a Democratic society the majority rules whether you like it or not. Then, and only then, after a vote by the employees, are you required to make a decision to join. This process is democratic and fair unlike in the past when employers would only allow voting by a show of hands, and then

you would be subject to ridicule and retaliation. In my years in the unions, I have seen many people that were anti-union and thought that we union members were no good. They were angry that they had to join a Union in order to work certain jobs, until they had an incident and needed to use the benefits like medical insurance. They have completely turned around in there opinions of unions and now see the good that unions do. They now realize that, without union benefits, they were just one accident away from bankruptcy!

Please vote against the passage of this bill!

Thank you,
Samuel Crocker
Box 161
Tok, Alaska 99780
907-883-5272 samwise19@hotmail.com

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

As a female union member, I oppose HB 37. Unions benefit *all* workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher income helps to support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low. According to the US bureau of Labor Statistics, female union members earn $149 more each week than nonunion women. Union membership effectively narrows the pay gap between men and women and therefore allows for a more even field.

Additionally, right to work endangers safety and health standards that protect workers on the job by weakening unions that help to ensure safety by fighting for tougher safety rules. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions are limited in the ability to speak up for workers.

Sincerely,

Arliss E. Tritt

Arliss E. Tritt
P.O. Box 82513
Fairbanks, AK
99708

Dear Alaskan Legislature

I am a union worker and registered voter in the state of Alaska. I wanted to bring some points to your attention about the upcoming vote on right to work legislation.

• Right to work makes it harder for unionized employers to compete for business. Many unions retain their membership in right to work states, although adding new bargaining units is made more difficult. This means that while unionized employers stay unionized, nonunion firms can remain unorganized and gain an even greater competitive advantage based on low-wage, no-benefit jobs.

• Unionized construction companies compete largely on the basis of better quality work because they provide more training, have fewer injuries on the job and are more productive. All these competitive advantages are threatened when low-road companies can drive down wages because of anti-union legislation.

• Right to work reduces consumer spending. Because union membership means higher wages, higher unionization within a community means consumers have more to spend. That's good for local companies, especially those in retail sales and services.

• Right to work brings government interference to private enterprise. A right to work law takes union security off the bargaining table. In effect, government limits the right of employers to set the terms and conditions of employment by telling companies and their workers what they can and can't bargain over. Labor and management should have the freedom to agree upon the conditions of work—without the government dictating to them.

Please do not interfere with private enterprise and vote NO on the right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Grady

Rebecca Grady
6427 E 10th Ave
Anchorage ak 99504

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce,

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I have been a resident of Alaska for many years and am appalled at this legislation.

I have watched "Right to Work" laws in other states; systematically lower wages, worker safety, and the economy.

"Right to Work" states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to health care and poorer schools.

"Right to Work" laws do not guarantee any rights; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right to Work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement.

For the reasons stated above and many more too numerous to, list I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation is bad for Alaska and bad for the workers.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. BENNETT
1479 FARMERS LOOP ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Please do not support HB 37. Rise in workplace injuries, poverty level wages and loss of medical benefits are what happens in states with "Right to Work" laws. Why would you want to do that to your fellow Alaskans? Unions support working people-who do you support? If you approve this bill, you certainly do not support the workers that voted for you in the election.

Jeff Martin

277 Pearl Dr
Fairbanks AK
99712

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

As a longtime Alaskan resident and worker, this legislation infuriates me.

Statistics have shown that states that have enacted right-to-work laws, their workers (on the average) earn less money, have less health care, pensions, and retirement benefits, but they do have higher workplace injuries and deaths.

Because wages are held down, right-to-work states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to healthcare, and poorer schools. Additionally, by suppressing union membership, women and minorities are hit hardest in right-to-work states.

Workers who don't want to join a union are already fully protected by Federal law. Federal law provides that no worker can be forced to join a union, and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. If an employer and union enter into a voluntary union security contract, a covered worker simply has to share the basic cost of representation.

In summary, Right –to-Work does not grant worker rights; it simply takes them away.

Working Alaskans deserve better than this from our legislators!

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely,

JERRY W. [illegible]
1601 MARICA ROAD #19
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-4329

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

This is an important issue that impacts everyone. Right to work laws benefit only employers who want to pay less and violate worker rights, ignore safety standards, and generally screw their employees at will. It is important to remember that in places with a strong union presence, wages, benefits, and work conditions tend to be better even for nonunion workers.

If I wanted to live in Mississippi I'd move to Mississippi, a right to work state where over half of all single family homes are trailers and the school system ranks dead last in the nation. Is that what we want for Alaska? Loads of low wage jobs and the decline in tax revenue that goes with them will lower the quality of our schools, make it harder to maintain our infrastructure, and negatively impact services such as public safety. Demand for public services like food stamps, Medicaid, heating assistance and many others will rise.

Alaskans economic woes will not be solved by impoverishing the middle class. Republican politicians moan about taxes taking money out of consumers' pockets. They don't mind when employers do it, though.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MAHER
PO BOX 85169
FAIRBANKS AK
99709

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

Just when I thought our legislature couldn't get anymore off-base we see a 'right to work' bill from Rep. Carl Gatto. This terrible legislation when passed in other states leads to all wages being lowered. He may mean this as an attack on unions, but it will affect us all! Right to Work states are amongst the lowest wage states in the nation.

I work hard and it is expensive to live in Alaska. The last thing I need is someone trying to lower my wages. I think the legislature should get back to real issues like affordable energy and helping us survive this economic downturn, not cook up more ways to make us suffer.

Sincerely,

Ginger M. Attra
P.O. Box 58
Huslia, AK 99746

To the State of Alaska Legislature

As a women union worker and voter in the state of Alaska I am disgusted at the thought of our legislature even thinking about passing the current right to work legislation. I demand that you vote no on this hurtful legislation. To quote the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, January 2002:

Right to Work and Women

Unions benefit all workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher incomes help support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low.

• Union women earn $149 more each week than nonunion women.

• Union membership narrows the pay gap for women. Nationally, the gap between men's and women's pay is 32 percent—but between all men and union women the gap is only 5 percent.

Please Vote NO and help me support my family.

Sincerely

Disgusted Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

Rebekah Woodman
1804 Roberts Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Rebekah Woodman

March 26, 2009

Jonna Weed
P.O. Box 70465
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Attn: House Labor and Commerce Committee

Please do not support House Bill 37. I cannot understand why Representative Gatto does not just come right out and say that he is trying to get rid of Unions. Having to represent people that do not pay their fair share is just another way to bankrupt the unions.

The majority of union members are Alaskan residents, they stay here all year long, vote here and contribute to the State's economy all year. Without unions people would come to Alaska and take all the jobs because they are willing to work for less and no benefits. Pretty soon Alaska would be a poverty state just like all the "Right to Work" states.

Our State needs a stable economy with Alaskans working, not one that sees all our income going to the "lower 48."

Sincerely,

Jonna Weed

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please do not support Representative Gatto's HB 37, a Right-to-Work bill. In states that have passed right to work bills, worker safety statistics show more accidents and workers are paid less. Organizations supporting right to work laws are run and controlled by big business. I'd like to promote freedom in Alaska to organize and better myself in my job.

HB 37 is not designed to protect and help workers. It will do exactly the opposite.

Thank you. Thomas Mulligan

Sincerely, Thomas Mulligan

1838 Rozak Road

North Pole AK 99705

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I am a lifelong Alaskan worker and resident I am offended by this "Right-to-Work-For-Less" legislation sponsored by Representative Gatto.

- Right-to-Work laws do not guarantee any right; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right-to-work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement. A union security agreement requires employee who benefit from the union's representation to pay dues, sharing the cost of union negotiations, contract administrations, and other union-provided job services.
- Right-to-Work laws are deliberately designed to financially cripple the union movement. Right-to-work laws are actually intended to discourage workers from joining a union or paying any dues, because they offer workers a deal that undermine worker solidarity- you don't have to pay dues, but you still get all the union services_ for free. Federal law requires unions to represent nonmembers; so dues-paying union members are forced to subsidize union services for the "free riders"
- Federal Laws already ensure that no worker can be forced to join a union, and a non-union worker cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their political or religious views.

This legislation is nothing more that a ***retaliatory attack*** aimed at organized labor, by "Big Business" supported legislators.

HB 37 does not grant or protect worker rights; it simply takes them away and weakens Alaska's economy.

As a working and voting resident of Alaska, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely,

ROBIN FREELONG
1266 HAYES AVENUE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709

R L Freelong

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

When I heard that "Right to Work" legislation had come to Alaska I thought it must be a joke. I felt we elected better representives than that. It seems though that someone has introduced "Right to Work" legislation. I will do everything I can to make sure this is that individuals last cycle as a representative. Also anyone supporting this "Right to Work" legislation will have a bull's eye on their hopes for reelection. We as Alaskans cannot stand by and let something as ugly as "Right to Work" to dirty up our state.

Please do not support HB 37.

Sincerely, Hudson Mitchell

360 Thunder Road
Fox Ak, 99715

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Workers need to band together to speak on their behalf. No one person can bargain for themselves as effectively as a large group of people. Unions are made up of people banding together for the benefit of all. Without a Union to speak and bargain for us we would slowly lose wages and benefits like any other "Right to Work" state. Alaska is independent and not should not be treated like just any other state. Please do not support HB 37.

Michael Flint Reynolds
P.O. Box 83721 Fairbanks AK 99708
Michael Flint Reynolds

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

I am distressed by Rep. Gatto's Right to Work legislation. New industries and economic development are no promoted by any "right to work" legislation. Companies locate in certain states for a multitude of reasons. If a company does consider locating in a state because of this legislation it's more likely a result of the ability to pay less in wages and benefits. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics weekly wages are $72 greater in free-bargaining states than in right to work states. Purposely enacting laws that effectively lower wages and benefits in order to lure new business is not a sound economic plan for Alaska, and considering our geographic location, quite unrealistic. Don't "fix" it if it's not broken.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Carney

Gerald F. Carney

P.O. Box 70470
Fairbanks, AK. 99707

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation has been introduced as a "Right to Work" bill. So if passed, I will have the right to work for less wages, the right to work for less health benefits, and the right to work in an unsafe environment. NO THANK YOU!

For the sake of all working Alaskans, vote no on HB 37.

Sincerely,

Nick Turenne

Nick Turenne
1516 27TH AVE #1
FAIRBANKS, AK. 99701

Dear Alaskan Legislature

I am a union worker and registered voter in the state of Alaska. I wanted to bring some points to your attention about the upcoming vote on right to work legislation.

• Right to work makes it harder for unionized employers to compete for business. Many unions retain their membership in right to work states, although adding new bargaining units is made more difficult. This means that while unionized employers stay unionized, nonunion firms can remain unorganized and gain an even greater competitive advantage based on low-wage, no-benefit jobs.

• Unionized construction companies compete largely on the basis of better quality work because they provide more training, have fewer injuries on the job and are more productive. All these competitive advantages are threatened when low-road companies can drive down wages because of anti-union legislation.

• Right to work reduces consumer spending. Because union membership means higher wages, higher unionization within a community means consumers have more to spend. That's good for local companies, especially those in retail sales and services.

• Right to work brings government interference to private enterprise. A right to work law takes union security off the bargaining table. In effect, government limits the right of employers to set the terms and conditions of employment by telling companies and their workers what they can and can't bargain over. Labor and management should have the freedom to agree upon the conditions of work—without the government dictating to them.

Please do not interfere with private enterprise and vote NO on the right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

Kayla Watson
482 Slater Dr. Apt. A
Fairbanks Alaska
99701
Kayla Watson
3-26-09

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

In response to Rep Gatto's *right to work* legislation I'd like to set the record straight, as I interpret it, right to work doesn't guarantee any rights. In fact, by weakening unions and collective bargaining, it destroys the best job security protection that exists: the union contract. Meanwhile, it allows workers to pay nothing and get all the same benefits as I do as a union member. Right to work laws say unions must represent all eligible employees, whether they pay dues or not. This forces unions to use their time and members' dues money to provide union benefits to free riders who are not willing to pay their fair share. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely,

Shane Wright

2610 Lucky Law Ct.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

HB 37, introduced by Representative Gatto, is a Right-to-Work bill that means anything but. I support the freedom of workers to protect themselves, and to organize and better their lives. HB 37 would set Alaska back years in employee rights. Right-to-work laws often create free riders, workers who benefit from union contracts without having to pay for union benefits and they are proven to weaken unions. Unions are the best tool employees have to protect themselves from being taken advantage of.

I strongly oppose any law that weakens my right to collectively bargain for better working conditions with all of my fellow workers working together. This bill creates division. It doesn't create unity in the workplace.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vincent Eickholt
1577 gunning dr Fairbanks AK 99712

Vincent Eickholt

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce,

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I have been a resident of Alaska for many years and am appalled at this legislation.

I have watched "Right to Work" laws in other states; systematically lower wages, worker safety, and the economy.

"Right to Work" states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to health care and poorer schools.

"Right to Work" laws do not guarantee any rights; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right to Work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement.

For the reasons stated above and many more too numerous to, list I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation is bad for Alaska and bad for the workers.

Sincerely,

Jesse Woods
Jesse Woods
5101 Electra Ave
Fairbanks AK 99701

March 26, 2009

To The Committee on Labor and Commerce:

In my opinion, "Right to Work" just means the right to work for less. Good wages and good benefits are the only thing that keeps me working outside at -50. It make me very angry that some anti-union Representative is trying to attack the unions. Please do not support HB37.

Zachary T. Gonzalez
P.O. Box 82935 Fbks, Ak 99708

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Workers need to band together to speak on their behalf. No one person can bargain for themselves as effectively as a large group of people. Unions are made up of people banding together for the benefit of all. Without a Union to speak and bargain for us we would slowly lose wages and benefits like any other "Right to Work" state. Alaska is independent and not should not be treated like just any other state. Please do not support HB 37.

Jordan Weed

Jordan Weed
PO Box 70465
Fairbanks, AK
99707

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

I think it is amazing that Representative Carl Gatto can bring up a bill in the Legislature that would result in Alaskans pay being reduced. So called 'right to work' bills are actually 'right to work for less bills'. In the states where these bill have passed pay for ALL workers goes down. In today's economy, the last thing we need is a bill that lowers the pay of hard working Alaskans. Maybe some of those Wall Street guys deserve a pay cut, but I sure don't.

Sincerely, Eli N

Eli Nicholas
2222 Solar Ave.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

3/26/09

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I hope you are seriously not considering the right to work legislation that has been introduced to your committee. Alaska does not need to go the way of the right to work states in the lower forty eight. Those workers are constantly coming to Alaska for the good jobs and wages we have because their right to work state has gone into the dumpster. Workers have the choice to join a union here in Alaska keep it fair to those workers by not forcing the union to provide benefits to non dues paying members. That makes no sense, do the right thing NO to right to work for less in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kelle Lynn Montgomery

KELLE MONTGOMERY
1290 NORTH HUBNERITE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99712
907-457-1889

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Alaska Representative Gatto has introduced HB 37, a right to work bill, that would set Alaska back years in employee freedom and rights. Right to work provisions weaken the rights of employees and strengthen the ability of employers to reduce wages and benefits. Please help defeat this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Burks

3212 Riverview Dr.
FBKS, AK, 99709

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

As a safety conscious worker I am glad that my union stands up for safety on the job site. A higher rate of workplace deaths, 51% has been seen in "Right to Work" states. The work we do here in Alaska is tough enough. We do not need to add more deaths. Safety on the job is everyone's concern. Please keep me and my fellow workers safe by voting NO on the "Right to Work" legislation. I would never vote for anyone who supported "Right to Work" in Alaska.

Sincerely,

James H Johnson

James H Johnson

1003 Kodiak,
FBKS, Alaska
99701

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

As a longtime Alaskan resident and worker, this legislation infuriates me.

Statistics have shown that states that have enacted right-to-work laws, their workers (on the average) earn less money, have less health care, pensions, and retirement benefits, but they do have higher workplace injuries and deaths.

Because wages are held down, right-to-work states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to healthcare, and poorer schools. Additionally, by suppressing union membership, women and minorities are hit hardest in right-to-work states.

Workers who don't want to join a union are already fully protected by Federal law. Federal law provides that no worker can be forced to join a union, and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. If an employer and union enter into a voluntary union security contract, a covered worker simply has to share the basic cost of representation.

In summary, Right –to-Work does not grant worker rights; it simply takes them away.

Working Alaskans deserve better than this from our legislators!

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely,

JEFFRY CARLSON

2668 SHADY LN.
NORTH POLE
AK 99705

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

Just when I thought our legislature couldn't get anymore off-base we see a 'right to work' bill from Rep. Carl Gatto. This terrible legislation when passed in other states leads to all wages being lowered. He may mean this as an attack on unions, but it will affect us all! Right to Work states are amongst the lowest wage states in the nation.

I work hard and it is expensive to live in Alaska. The last thing I need is someone trying to lower my wages. I think the legislature should get back to real issues like affordable energy and helping us survive this economic downturn, not cook up more ways to make us suffer.

Sincerely,

Lloyd V. Charlie

Lloyd V. Charlie
P.O. Box 49
Minto, Alaska 99758

Dear Alaskan Legislature

'Right to Work' States Are Really Restricted Rights States. 'Right to Work': It's not a right to a job—it's a free ride. "Right to work" has nothing to do with a right to a job or employment. The deceptively named "right to work" laws ban workers—who by a majority vote decided to form a union in their workplace—and employers from negotiating union security clauses.

By law, unions must represent all workers—members and nonmembers—in contract negotiations and other workplace issues. A union security clause does not force workers to join a union but simply means they must pay a fair share for the economic benefits they receive because of union representation—such as health insurance, pensions and wages that are on average better than those for nonunion workers.

A "right to work" law would allow nonmember workers to get all the benefits of union membership and pay nothing, while forcing unions and their members to foot the bill for those not willing to pay their share. The result is weaker unions with inadequate re-sources to represent members.

In the 28 non-"right to work" states, federal law protects those workers who do not want to join the union. Workers in those states are required to pay only a fair share to cover the costs of their union representation, but not the cost of a union's political, legislative, social or charitable activities.

I personally joined the union because I could not make a living working for the big businesses that only wanted to pay minimum wage, which has not kept up with inflation, but has kept up with the wishes of big business plans of keeping wages low while they reap in the profits. I joined the union for the protection it offers and willingly pay my dues so that I have someone big enough to fight for my rights and my well being. What will I tell my newborn son about why I cannot get him food because I have no voice to keep my wage up at a level that I can afford to go to the store and buy him food? I worry about this everyday now that there is talk of right to work legislation. I look at other right to work states and see the high amounts of unemployment the high amounts of people on welfare, and worry that Alaska will soon fall to the pressures of outside influences. We have defeated many attacks on Alaska before and I strongly hope you will defeat this vicious attack on our great state's economy. Alaska laws are strong and to the point already and don't need to be changed to help the Big corporations. Isn't this the last frontier? Let's keep our state and our workers safe and vote NO on the right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

David Brasier
Proud Union and Alaskan Voter for 33 years
796 Badger Rd
North Pole, AK
99705

March 25, 2009

RE: Vote NO on HB 37

I urge you to oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill, will reduce Alaskans' wages and jeopardize employer-provided health care. States with this legislation have seen such reductions in their workers' wages.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

KEVIN D. KNOX
Kevin D. Knox
455 3RD. Ave. Apt. #320
FAIRBANKS, AK. 99701

March 25, 2009

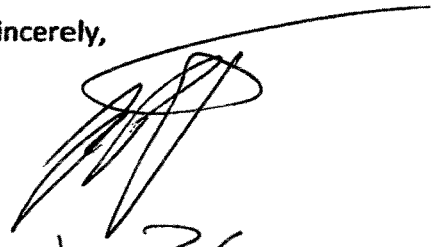
To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I ask you to vote no on HB 37. I do not understand why this legislation is called "Right to Work." The declaration of policy states that this bill will " maximize my individual freedom of choice in pursuit of employment" and my right to work will not be restricted or based on my decision to join a union. I already have this freedom and choice. I have never been denied employment because of union affiliation or my refusal to join a union.

Whose interest is this bill trying to protect? Is it the interests of the Alaskan working people or the interests of big business?

Show your support for working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely,



JOHN P GARRITY
1024 5TH AVE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Over the years states that have adopted "Right to Work" legislation have seen the average wage for workers go down. Big Business would like nothing better than to have Unions out of the pictures. Without Unions to speak for us we would be reduced to the poverty level of other Right to Work states. Please vote against HB37

Hazel M. Beatus
1119 Merganser St.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Hazel M. Beatus 3/26/09

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

HB 37, introduced by Representative Gatto, is a Right-to-Work bill that means anything but. I support the freedom of workers to protect themselves, and to organize and better their lives. HB 37 would set Alaska back years in employee rights. Right-to-work laws often create free riders, workers who benefit from union contracts without having to pay for union benefits and they are proven to weaken unions. Unions are the best tool employees have to protect themselves from being taken advantage of.

I strongly oppose any law that weakens my right to collectively bargain for better working conditions with all of my fellow workers working together. This bill creates division. It doesn't create unity in the workplace.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Newton Jr

338 Shannon Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska
99701

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation has been introduced as a "Right to Work" bill. So if passed, I will have the right to work for less wages, the right to work for less health benefits, and the right to work in an unsafe environment. NO THANK YOU!

For the sake of all working Alaskans, vote no on HB 37.

Sincerely, DAREL WILLIAMS

224 BARANOFF ST
FBKS, AK 99701,

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce,

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I have been a resident of Alaska for many years and am appalled at this legislation.

I have watched "Right to Work" laws in other states; systematically lower wages, worker safety, and the economy.

"Right to Work" states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to health care and poorer schools.

"Right to Work" laws do not guarantee any rights; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right to Work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement.

For the reasons stated above and many more too numerous to, list I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation is bad for Alaska and bad for the workers.

Sincerely,

Billy Rosen

Bill Rosen

1600 washington dr. Apt (A-2)
Fairbanks Ak, 99709

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Rep. Gatto has introduced right to work legislation which has galvanized me, and many like me into action. Right to work laws will not improve Alaska's overall business atmosphere. Conversely, it will create an environment in which businesses profits will increase because of lower wages but that's not a positive solution for the workers involved. When wages fall, state revenues from income and sales tax will also fall. In effect the state has far less funding available to finance education, transportation, and other programs that are vital to attracting new industries and businesses that are often times already hurting.

Sincerely,

Jonathan S. Polsany

P.O 71582
Fbks, Ak 99707

March 25, 2009

RE: House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill. If signed into law, HB 37 will turn Alaska into a "right to work" state. This kind of legislation, when introduced in other states, has a proven track record of weakening unions, reducing wage, and harming small businesses.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Chris Poland

3553 Go thatta way north Pole
AK 99705

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I am appalled to hear that "Right to Work" legislation has reared its ugly head in Alaska again. Being a long time worker in this State I have always been happy with the wages I receive. Those wages do not make me a wealthy person. However, they do pay the bills. With increased heating bills and the cost of all goods I cannot believe that you would want to cut my wages. If you vote for this "Right to Work" legislation, you are doing exactly that, hurting the working men and women of Alaska.

Troy A. Bourquin

Troy Bourquin
P.O. Box 81533
Fairbanks, Ak. 99708

Dear Alaska Legislature

Unions Raise Wages for All Workers

Please don't believe all the hype about Unions being bad.

Right to work, plain and simple, means lower wages for all workers.

• More workers earning higher union wages means there are fewer workers who will work for less. This forces low-paying employers to raise wages to get or keep employees.

• Higher union wages mean more consumers with more money to spend. This leads to more jobs and less unemployment. When fewer people are unemployed, employers must offer higher wages to attract workers.

• Studies show that unions increase productivity by encouraging new technology, labor management coordination and increased training. To survive, nonunion competitors often increase their use of technology and train workers in new skills, making them eligible for higher wages.

• Employers often offer nonunion workers higher wages to prevent them from organizing. So just the threat of workers joining a union benefits nonunion members.

In these hard times do we need legislation that makes it easier for big business to lower wages and worker rights to such things as health care. I don't believe so and neither should you. Do we need our unemployment rates to increase, do we need to have more Alaskans on welfare. If you pass this right to work legislation I am afraid that's what will happen, don't believe me, look at the other right to work states statistics and you will see that is exactly what happened. Please don't let this happen to our great state of Alaska. Alaska laws are firm and well rounded as we speak and adding this legislation would only weaken us as a State.

Concerned Registered State of Alaska Voter

Jimmie Rainer Jr.
476 Deoz St. Fairbanks AK. 99701

To my Alaska Legislature

Right to work! It's not just about unions, but communities too.

"Right to work" laws reach far beyond wages. Quality-of-life issues such as health care, education, worker safety and poverty suffer greatly in "right to work" states.

In "right to work" states 21 percent more people are without health insurance compared with those in free-bargaining states. (source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press)

"Right to work" states spend $1,699 less per elementary and secondary pupil than other states. (Source: Education Vital Signs, 2000-2001 school year)

The infant mortality rate in "right to work" states is 17 percent higher than in other states, and the poverty rate is 12.5 percent compared with 10.2 percent in other states. (Source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002)

The rate of workplace death is 51 percent higher in "right to work" states. (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001; AFL-CIO, "Death on the Job," April 2002)

Please don't let this happen to Alaska Vote NO on the proposed right to work legislation.

Disgusted Alaskan Voter

Stanislav Chayka
S. Chayka

620 O'Leary Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak 99712

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Please do not support HB 37. Rise in workplace injuries, poverty level wages and loss of medical benefits are what happens in states with "Right to Work" laws. Why would you want to do that to your fellow Alaskans? Unions support working people-who do you support? If you approve this bill, you certainly do not support the workers that voted for you in the election.

Dan Flaherty

382 Cinnabar Drive

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Rep. Gatto has introduced right to work legislation which has galvanized me, and many like me into action. Right to work laws will not improve Alaska's overall business atmosphere. Conversely, it will create an environment in which businesses profits will increase because of lower wages but that's not a positive solution for the workers involved. When wages fall, state revenues from income and sales tax will also fall. In effect the state has far less funding available to finance education, transportation, and other programs that are vital to attracting new industries and businesses that are often times already hurting.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hutchinson
860 Gower Dr.
Fairbanks AK 99709

March 25, 2009

RE: House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill. If signed into law, HB 37 will turn Alaska into a "right to work" state. This kind of legislation, when introduced in other states, has a proven track record of weakening unions, reducing wage, and harming small businesses.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Nels. J. Ostnes
1502 2nd Ave
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please do not support Representative Gatto's HB 37, a Right-to-Work bill. In states that have passed right to work bills, worker safety statistics show more accidents and workers are paid less. Organizations supporting right to work laws are run and controlled by big business. I'd like to promote freedom in Alaska to organize and better myself in my job.

HB 37 is not designed to protect and help workers. It will do exactly the opposite.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

PO BOX 80465
Fairbanks AK 99708
Joel Mamber

March 25, 2009

RE: Vote NO on HB 37

I urge you to oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill, will reduce Alaskans' wages and jeopardize employer-provided health care. States with this legislation have seen such reductions in their workers' wages.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nicole Valentine
Nicole Valentine
1204 27th Ave
FBKS AK 99701

To the State of Alaska Legislature

I am writing to express my concerns with the upcoming Right to work law. If you take a look at statistics you will see that in every state that has passed right to work legislation, it has backfired on them. Here are some examples. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions can't speak up on behalf of workers.

Right to work laws lower wages for everyone. The average worker in a right to work state makes about $5,333 a year less than workers in other states ($35,500 compared with $30,167). Weekly wages are $72 greater in free-bargaining states than in right to work states ($621 versus $549). Working families in states without right to work laws have higher wages and benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.

Right to work states have a poverty rate of 12.5 percent, compared with 10.2 Percent in other states. Moreover, the infant mortality rate is 16 percent higher in right to work states.

Federal law already protects workers who don't want to join a union to get or keep their jobs. Supporters claim right to work laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be fooled—federal law already does this, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. This individual freedom argument is a sham.

Is this what you want to happen to our great state of Alaska? I sure hope not.

I urge you to vote no on this right to work legislation and keep our great state of Alaska as they call it the Last Frontier. I will be watching your decisions and will vote for or against you depending on how you vote on this issue.

Respectively Submitted

Registered Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

Shirley Williams
Shirley Williams

224 Barnoff St
FBKS 99701

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Over the years states that have adopted "Right to Work" legislation have seen the average wage for workers go down. Big Business would like nothing better than to have Unions out of the pictures. Without Unions to speak for us we would be reduced to the poverty level of other Right to Work states. Please vote against HB37

Jennifer McCormick
Jennifer McCormick
7241 Ouida Cvoy
North Pole Alaska
99705

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I don't usually write letters to my representatives, but I find that I must do so now. I cannot believe there are representatives in our legislature who would introduce a bill such as HB 37. This bill is effectively weakening my right to collectively bargain with my employer. This so-called "right to work" bill does not give me any more right to work than I already have.

Show me that you are listening to working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely,

George Aplustil
P.O. Box 84247
Fairbanks, AK. 99708

Dear Alaskan Legislature

I am a union worker and registered voter in the state of Alaska. I wanted to bring some points to your attention about the upcoming vote on right to work legislation.

• Right to work makes it harder for unionized employers to compete for business. Many unions retain their membership in right to work states, although adding new bargaining units is made more difficult. This means that while unionized employers stay unionized, nonunion firms can remain unorganized and gain an even greater competitive advantage based on low-wage, no-benefit jobs.

• Unionized construction companies compete largely on the basis of better quality work because they provide more training, have fewer injuries on the job and are more productive. All these competitive advantages are threatened when low-road companies can drive down wages because of anti-union legislation.

• Right to work reduces consumer spending. Because union membership means higher wages, higher unionization within a community means consumers have more to spend. That's good for local companies, especially those in retail sales and services.

• Right to work brings government interference to private enterprise. A right to work law takes union security off the bargaining table. In effect, government limits the right of employers to set the terms and conditions of employment by telling companies and their workers what they can and can't bargain over. Labor and management should have the freedom to agree upon the conditions of work—without the government dictating to them.

Please do not interfere with private enterprise and vote NO on the right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

Cleophus Valentine

Cleophus Valentine

1204 27th Ave
FBKS AK 99701

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

In response to Rep Gatto's *right to work* legislation I'd like to set the record straight, as I interpret it, right to work doesn't guarantee any rights. In fact, by weakening unions and collective bargaining, it destroys the best job security protection that exists: the union contract. Meanwhile, it allows workers to pay nothing and get all the same benefits as I do as a union member. Right to work laws say unions must represent all eligible employees, whether they pay dues or not. This forces unions to use their time and members' dues money to provide union benefits to free riders who are not willing to pay their fair share. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely, Nicholas McCormick

Nichols McCormick
P.O. Box 56216 North Pole Ak 99705

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Advocates not unlike Rep. Gratto claim *right to work* laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be mistaken, federal law already provides for this safeguard, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. The individual freedom argument is a mute point alive solely for propaganda sake. Today, unions are kept to a much stricter code of ethics and their finances monitored under a finer microscope than any other organization or company. The assumption that unions are fraudulent and lead to corruption is false and I take personal offense. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely,

Darrick Earl Hart

537 Blanket BLVD North Pole Alaska

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I am appalled to hear that "Right to Work" legislation has reared its ugly head in Alaska again. Being a long time worker in this State I have always been happy with the wages I receive. Those wages do not make me a wealthy person. However, they do pay the bills. With increased heating bills and the cost of all goods I cannot believe that you would want to cut my wages. If you vote for this "Right to Work" legislation, you are doing exactly that, hurting the working men and women of Alaska.

Randolph Demoski
P.O. Box 54
Nulato AK 99765

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I don't usually write letters to my representatives, but I find that I must do so now. I cannot believe there are representatives in our legislature who would introduce a bill such as HB 37. This bill is effectively weakening my right to collectively bargain with my employer. This so-called "right to work" bill does not give me any more right to work than I already have.

Show me that you are listening to working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely, Percy Silas

P.O. Box 71998
Fairbanks, Ak 99702

Percy Silas

To the State of Alaska Legislature

I am writing to express my concerns with the upcoming Right to work law. If you take a look at statistics you will see that in every state that has passed right to work legislation, it has backfired on them. Here are some examples. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions can't speak up on behalf of workers.

Right to work laws lower wages for everyone. The average worker in a right to work state makes about $5,333 a year less than workers in other states ($35,500 compared with $30,167). Weekly wages are $72 greater in free-bargaining states than in right to work states ($621 versus $549). Working families in states without right to work laws have higher wages and benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.

Right to work states have a poverty rate of 12.5 percent, compared with 10.2 Percent in other states. Moreover, the infant mortality rate is 16 percent higher in right to work states.

Federal law already protects workers who don't want to join a union to get or keep their jobs. Supporters claim right to work laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be fooled—federal law already does this, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. This individual freedom argument is a sham.

Is this what you want to happen to our great state of Alaska? I sure hope not.

I urge you to vote no on this right to work legislation and keep our great state of Alaska as they call it the Last Frontier. I will be watching your decisions and will vote for or against you depending on how you vote on this issue.

Respectively Submitted

Registered Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

CINDY WILSON
1331 2ND AVE #2
FBKS, AK 99701

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Advocates not unlike Rep. Gratto claim *right to work* laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be mistaken, federal law already provides for this safeguard, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. The individual freedom argument is a mute point alive solely for propaganda sake. Today, unions are kept to a much stricter code of ethics and their finances monitored under a finer microscope than any other organization or company. The assumption that unions are fraudulent and lead to corruption is false and I take personal offense. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely, Michael Dobbs

P.O. Box 84481
FBKs AK 99708

Michael Dobbs

To my Alaska Legislature

Right to work! It's not just about unions, but communities too.

"Right to work" laws reach far beyond wages. Quality-of-life issues such as health care, education, worker safety and poverty suffer greatly in "right to work" states.

In "right to work" states 21 percent more people are without health insurance compared with those in free-bargaining states. (source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press)

"Right to work" states spend $1,699 less per elementary and secondary pupil than other states. (Source: Education Vital Signs, 2000-2001 school year)

The infant mortality rate in "right to work" states is 17 percent higher than in other states, and the poverty rate is 12.5 percent compared with 10.2 percent in other states. (Source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002)

The rate of workplace death is 51 percent higher in "right to work" states. (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001; AFL-CIO, "Death on the Job," April 2002)

Please don't let this happen to Alaska Vote NO on the proposed right to work legislation.

Disgusted Alaskan Voter

Miguel Rosales
100 C. St. Apt. H.
Fairbanks, Ak 99701

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Alaska Representative Gatto has introduced HB 37, a right to work bill, that would set Alaska back years in employee freedom and rights. Right to work provisions weaken the rights of employees and strengthen the ability of employers to reduce wages and benefits. Please help defeat this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason McDaniel

929 24th Ave
Fairbanks Ak 99701

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

As a longtime Alaskan resident and worker, this legislation infuriates me.

Statistics have shown that states that have enacted right-to-work laws, their workers (on the average) earn less money, have less health care, pensions, and retirement benefits, but they do have higher workplace injuries and deaths.

Because wages are held down, right-to-work states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to healthcare, and poorer schools. Additionally, by suppressing union membership, women and minorities are hit hardest in right-to-work states.

Workers who don't want to join a union are already fully protected by Federal law. Federal law provides that no worker can be forced to join a union, and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. If an employer and union enter into a voluntary union security contract, a covered worker simply has to share the basic cost of representation.

In summary, Right –to-Work does not grant worker rights; it simply takes them away.

Working Alaskans deserve better than this from our legislators!

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely,

TYRONE JONES 613 22ND AVE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

Tyrone Jones

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

As a female union member, I oppose HB 37. Unions benefit *all* workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher income helps to support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low. According to the US bureau of Labor Statistics, female union members earn $149 more each week than nonunion women. Union membership effectively narrows the pay gap between men and women and therefore allows for a more even field.

Additionally, right to work endangers safety and health standards that protect workers on the job by weakening unions that help to ensure safety by fighting for tougher safety rules. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions are limited in the ability to speak up for workers.

Sincerely,

Cammie J. Wyss
2536 Stoneman Ln
North Pole, AK 99705

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

As a female union member, I oppose HB 37. Unions benefit *all* workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher income helps to support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low. According to the US bureau of Labor Statistics, female union members earn $149 more each week than nonunion women. Union membership effectively narrows the pay gap between men and women and therefore allows for a more even field.

Additionally, right to work endangers safety and health standards that protect workers on the job by weakening unions that help to ensure safety by fighting for tougher safety rules. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions are limited in the ability to speak up for workers.

Sincerely,

Daisy Muller
P.O. Box 83475
Fbks AK 99708

To the State of Alaska Legislature

As a women union worker and voter in the state of Alaska I am disgusted at the thought of our legislature even thinking about passing the current right to work legislation. I demand that you vote no on this hurtful legislation. To quote the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, January 2002:

Right to Work and Women

Unions benefit all workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher incomes help support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low.

• Union women earn $149 more each week than nonunion women.

• Union membership narrows the pay gap for women. Nationally, the gap between men's and women's pay is 32 percent—but between all men and union women the gap is only 5 percent.

Please Vote NO and help me support my family.

Sincerely

Disgusted Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

Daisy D. Muller
P.O. BOX 83475
FBKS AK 99708

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Please do not support HB 37. Rise in workplace injuries, poverty level wages and loss of medical benefits are what happens in states with "Right to Work" laws. Why would you want to do that to your fellow Alaskans? Unions support working people-who do you support? If you approve this bill, you certainly do not support the workers that voted for you in the election.

Parker Frank

Parker Frank
1578 Bridgewater Dr
Fairbanks AK
99701

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

As a safety conscious worker I am glad that my union stands up for safety on the job site. A higher rate of workplace deaths, 51% has been seen in "Right to Work" states. The work we do here in Alaska is tough enough. We do not need to add more deaths. Safety on the job is everyone's concern. Please keep me and my fellow workers safe by voting NO on the "Right to Work" legislation. I would never vote for anyone who supported "Right to Work" in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Solomon R. Yatlin
3748 Swenson Ave. #5
Fairbanks, AK
-99709-

Solomon Yatlin

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Advocates not unlike Rep. Gratto claim *right to work* laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be mistaken, federal law already provides for this safeguard, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. The individual freedom argument is a mute point alive solely for propaganda sake. Today, unions are kept to a much stricter code of ethics and their finances monitored under a finer microscope than any other organization or company. The assumption that unions are fraudulent and lead to corruption is false and I take personal offense. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely,

Acuie Harrison

P.O. Box 56092 North Pole AK 99705

Dear Alaska Legislature

Unions Raise Wages for All Workers

Please don't believe all the hype about Unions being bad.

Right to work, plain and simple, means lower wages for all workers.

• More workers earning higher union wages means there are fewer workers who will work for less. This forces low-paying employers to raise wages to get or keep employees.

• Higher union wages mean more consumers with more money to spend. This leads to more jobs and less unemployment. When fewer people are unemployed, employers must offer higher wages to attract workers.

• Studies show that unions increase productivity by encouraging new technology, labor management coordination and increased training. To survive, nonunion competitors often increase their use of technology and train workers in new skills, making them eligible for higher wages.

• Employers often offer nonunion workers higher wages to prevent them from organizing. So just the threat of workers joining a union benefits nonunion members.

In these hard times do we need legislation that makes it easier for big business to lower wages and worker rights to such things as health care. I don't believe so and neither should you. Do we need our unemployment rates to increase, do we need to have more Alaskans on welfare. If you pass this right to work legislation I am afraid that's what will happen, don't believe me, look at the other right to work states statistics and you will see that is exactly what happened. Please don't let this happen to our great state of Alaska. Alaska laws are firm and well rounded as we speak and adding this legislation would only weaken us as a State.

Concerned Registered State of Alaska Voter

DAVID D PAULSON
P.O. BOX 55183
NORTH POLE, AK 99705

David D Paulson

March 25, 2009

RE: House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill. If signed into law, HB 37 will turn Alaska into a "right to work" state. This kind of legislation, when introduced in other states, has a proven track record of weakening unions, reducing wage, and harming small businesses.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gerald Palmer

353 Irish Ln

Fairbanks, Ak

99712

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I ask you to vote no on HB 37. I do not understand why this legislation is called "Right to Work." The declaration of policy states that this bill will " maximize my individual freedom of choice in pursuit of employment" and my right to work will not be restricted or based on my decision to join a union. I already have this freedom and choice. I have never been denied employment because of union affiliation or my refusal to join a union.

Whose interest is this bill trying to protect? Is it the interests of the Alaskan working people or the interests of big business?

Show your support for working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark

1124 Aztec Rd
North Pole AK
99711

Steve Clark

To the State of Alaska Legislature

I am writing to express my concerns with the upcoming Right to work law. If you take a look at statistics you will see that in every state that has passed right to work legislation, it has backfired on them. Here are some examples. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right to work, where unions can't speak up on behalf of workers.

Right to work laws lower wages for everyone. The average worker in a right to work state makes about $5,333 a year less than workers in other states ($35,500 compared with $30,167). Weekly wages are $72 greater in free-bargaining states than in right to work states ($621 versus $549). Working families in states without right to work laws have higher wages and benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.

Right to work states have a poverty rate of 12.5 percent, compared with 10.2 Percent in other states. Moreover, the infant mortality rate is 16 percent higher in right to work states.

Federal law already protects workers who don't want to join a union to get or keep their jobs. Supporters claim right to work laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Don't be fooled—federal law already does this, as well as protecting nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. This individual freedom argument is a sham.

Is this what you want to happen to our great state of Alaska? I sure hope not.

I urge you to vote no on this right to work legislation and keep our great state of Alaska as they call it the Last Frontier. I will be watching your decisions and will vote for or against you depending on how you vote on this issue.

Respectively Submitted

Registered Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

Garreth Cleaver

Garreth Cleaver
P.O. Box 102
Ruby, AK 99768

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I am a lifelong Alaskan worker and resident I am offended by this "Right-to-Work-For-Less" legislation sponsored by Representative Gatto.

- Right-to-Work laws do not guarantee any right; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right-to-work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement. A union security agreement requires employee who benefit from the union's representation to pay dues, sharing the cost of union negotiations, contract administrations, and other union-provided job services.
- Right-to-Work laws are deliberately designed to financially cripple the union movement. Right-to-work laws are actually intended to discourage workers from joining a union or paying any dues, because they offer workers a deal that undermine worker solidarity- you don't have to pay dues, but you still get all the union services_ for free. Federal law requires unions to represent nonmembers; so dues-paying union members are forced to subsidize union services for the "free riders"
- Federal Laws already ensure that no worker can be forced to join a union, and a non-union worker cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their political or religious views.

This legislation is nothing more that a *retaliatory attack* aimed at organized labor, by "Big Business" supported legislators.

HB 37 does not grant or protect worker rights; it simply takes them away and weakens Alaska's economy.

As a working and voting resident of Alaska, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely, Arnold Huntington

Arnold Huntington
P.O. Box 23
Koyukuk, AK
99754
1(907)-927-2218

March 25, 2009

RE: Vote NO on HB 37

I urge you to oppose HB 37. HB 37, a so-called "Right to Work" bill, will reduce Alaskans' wages and jeopardize employer-provided health care. States with this legislation have seen such reductions in their workers' wages.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melinda Roberts

Melinda Roberts
P.O. Box 7 Koyukuk AK, 99754

March 26, 2009

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I am a long time Alaska and this is my first letter to your committee. This bill coming before you concerning right to work legislation has me extremely upset. I live and work in Alaska because I know my wages and benefits reflect my work ethic. Now some people want to destroy all that with right to work. I am no fool, I know what substandard wages mean and workers' dignity goes right out the door. I hope that your committee can see this and vote against any right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Pierce Jr.

505 1st Street, Nenana Ak, 99760

3/26/09

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Over the years states that have adopted "Right to Work" legislation have seen the average wage for workers go down. Big Business would like nothing better than to have Unions out of the pictures. Without Unions to speak for us we would be reduced to the poverty level of other Right to Work states. Please vote against HB37

Jean Pierce

3-26-09

P.O. Box 183
Nenana, AK 99760

Dear Alaskan Legislature

I am a union worker and registered voter in the state of Alaska. I wanted to bring some points to your attention about the upcoming vote on right to work legislation.

• Right to work makes it harder for unionized employers to compete for business. Many unions retain their membership in right to work states, although adding new bargaining units is made more difficult. This means that while unionized employers stay unionized, nonunion firms can remain unorganized and gain an even greater competitive advantage based on low-wage, no-benefit jobs.

• Unionized construction companies compete largely on the basis of better quality work because they provide more training, have fewer injuries on the job and are more productive. All these competitive advantages are threatened when low-road companies can drive down wages because of anti-union legislation.

• Right to work reduces consumer spending. Because union membership means higher wages, higher unionization within a community means consumers have more to spend. That's good for local companies, especially those in retail sales and services.

• Right to work brings government interference to private enterprise. A right to work law takes union security off the bargaining table. In effect, government limits the right of employers to set the terms and conditions of employment by telling companies and their workers what they can and can't bargain over. Labor and management should have the freedom to agree upon the conditions of work—without the government dictating to them.

Please do not interfere with private enterprise and vote NO on the right to work legislation.

Sincerely,

Allbran Dimmie

Minto, AK 99758

P.O box 38

School ct. 16

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

This is an important issue that impacts everyone. Right to work laws benefit only employers who want to pay less and violate worker rights, ignore safety standards, and generally screw their employees at will. It is important to remember that in places with a strong union presence, wages, benefits, and work conditions tend to be better even for nonunion workers.

If I wanted to live in Mississippi I'd move to Mississippi, a right to work state where over half of all single family homes are trailers and the school system ranks dead last in the nation. Is that what we want for Alaska? Loads of low wage jobs and the decline in tax revenue that goes with them will lower the quality of our schools, make it harder to maintain our infrastructure, and negatively impact services such as public safety. Demand for public services like food stamps, Medicaid, heating assistance and many others will rise.

Alaskans economic woes will not be solved by impoverishing the middle class. Republican politicians moan about taxes taking money out of consumers' pockets. They don't mind when employers do it, though.

Sincerely,

Zebulon Woodman
1804 Roberts Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

Rep. Gatto has introduced right to work legislation which has galvanized me, and many like me into action. Right to work laws will not improve Alaska's overall business atmosphere. Conversely, it will create an environment in which businesses profits will increase because of lower wages but that's not a positive solution for the workers involved. When wages fall, state revenues from income and sales tax will also fall. In effect the state has far less funding available to finance education, transportation, and other programs that are vital to attracting new industries and businesses that are often times already hurting.

Sincerely,

Edward A Sweat

656 Fairbanks street apt A-11
Fairbanks Alaska, 99709

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

I am distressed by Rep. Gatto's Right to Work legislation. New industries and economic development are no promoted by any "right to work" legislation. Companies locate in certain states for a multitude of reasons. If a company does consider locating in a state because of this legislation it's more likely a result of the ability to pay less in wages and benefits. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics weekly wages are $72 greater in free-bargaining states than in right to work states. Purposely enacting laws that effectively lower wages and benefits in order to lure new business is not a sound economic plan for Alaska, and considering our geographic location, quite unrealistic. Don't "fix" it if it's not broken.

Sincerely,

Cassius Krinka
PO Box 44
Nulato, AK 99765

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

HB 37, introduced by Representative Gatto, is a Right-to-Work bill that means anything but. I support the freedom of workers to protect themselves, and to organize and better their lives. HB 37 would set Alaska back years in employee rights. Right-to-work laws often create free riders, workers who benefit from union contracts without having to pay for union benefits and they are proven to weaken unions. Unions are the best tool employees have to protect themselves from being taken advantage of.

I strongly oppose any law that weakens my right to collectively bargain for better working conditions with all of my fellow workers working together. This bill creates division. It doesn't create unity in the workplace.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kenny Sam Jr.

P.O. Box 48, 99746

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I am appalled to hear that "Right to Work" legislation has reared its ugly head in Alaska again. Being a long time worker in this State I have always been happy with the wages I receive. Those wages do not make me a wealthy person. However, they do pay the bills. With increased heating bills and the cost of all goods I cannot believe that you would want to cut my wages. If you vote for this "Right to Work" legislation, you are doing exactly that, hurting the working men and women of Alaska.

ELVIS L. SAM

Elvis L Sam

P.O. Box 77

HUSLIA, AK 99746

March 26, 2009

To The Committee on Labor and Commerce:

In my opinion, "Right to Work" just means the right to work for less. Good wages and good benefits are the only thing that keeps me working outside at -50. It make me very angry that some anti-union Representative is trying to attack the unions. Please do not support HB37.

Fred Alexie JR 3-26-09
Fred alexie Jr. 3-26-09

P.O Box 21
Kaltag, Alaska
99748

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce:

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

As a longtime Alaskan resident and worker, this legislation infuriates me.

Statistics have shown that states that have enacted right-to-work laws, their workers (on the average) earn less money, have less health care, pensions, and retirement benefits, but they **do** have higher workplace injuries and deaths.

Because wages are held down, right-to-work states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to healthcare, and poorer schools. Additionally, by suppressing union membership, women and minorities are hit hardest in right-to-work states.

Workers who don't want to join a union are already fully protected by Federal law. Federal law provides that no worker can be forced to join a union, and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs. If an employer and union enter into a voluntary union security contract, a covered worker simply has to share the basic cost of representation.

In summary, Right –to-Work does not grant worker rights; it simply takes them away.

Working Alaskans deserve better than this from our legislators!

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.

Sincerely, Gary J. Solomon

Gary J. Solomon

Kaltag AK 99748
Po. box 63

March 26, 2009

Carl S. Weed
P.O. Box 70465
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Attn: House Labor and Commerce Committee

I have been in a "Union" family for more than 50 years, first as a child, then a worker and now a retiree. I cannot understand why anyone would not see the benefit of having a union. My family never had to use any social services because we did not have medical benefits, we did not rely on food stamps because we made a decent wage and we are not praying to reach social security age quickly because I have a good pension. I grew up in an area that fought and died to organize under a collective bargaining unit. I was able to see first hand the benefits of having a union. My parents still live in there, on a union pension.

There is always the complaint that union workers make too much money, surely everyone realizes that if union workers made less money all workers would make less. It is the trickle down effect, as the top goes down so does the bottom. Of course this does not apply in the case of "Big Business" whose profit goes up as our wages go down.

HB 37 is nothing but a way to bust the Unions in the State of Alaska. Yes, some say this is to benefit the "people." No, this is to benefit the business owners not the workers. Please do not support this bill.

Sincerely,

Carl S. Weed

Carl S. Weed

Dear Alaska legislator,

RE: HB 37, Right-to-Work-for-less, and HB 185, the anti-Project Labor Agreement bill

I think it is amazing that Representative Carl Gatto can bring up a bill in the Legislature that would result in Alaskans pay being reduced. So called 'right to work' bills are actually 'right to work for less bills'. In the states where these bill have passed pay for ALL workers goes down. In today's economy, the last thing we need is a bill that lowers the pay of hard working Alaskans. Maybe some of those Wall Street guys deserve a pay cut, but I sure don't.

Sincerely,

CHRIS MOSES ALASKAN RESIDENT
23 years

P.O. BOX 71765
FAIRBANKS, AK 99707

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Alaska Representative Gatto has introduced HB 37, a right to work bill, that would set Alaska back years in employee freedom and rights. Right to work provisions weaken the rights of employees and strengthen the ability of employers to reduce wages and benefits. Please help defeat this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Charlie
P.O. Box 69 1st Street Minto, AK 99758
Randy R. Charlie

To my Alaska Legislature

Right to work! It's not just about unions, but communities too.

"Right to work" laws reach far beyond wages. Quality-of-life issues such as health care, education, worker safety and poverty suffer greatly in "right to work" states.

In "right to work" states 21 percent more people are without health insurance compared with those in free-bargaining states. (source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press)

"Right to work" states spend $1,699 less per elementary and secondary pupil than other states. (Source: Education Vital Signs, 2000-2001 school year)

The infant mortality rate in "right to work" states is 17 percent higher than in other states, and the poverty rate is 12.5 percent compared with 10.2 percent in other states. (Source: State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States, Morgan Quinto Press; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002)

The rate of workplace death is 51 percent higher in "right to work" states. (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001; AFL-CIO, "Death on the Job," April 2002)

Please don't let this happen to Alaska Vote NO on the proposed right to work legislation.

Disgusted Alaskan Voter

Dewayne Jimmie
Dewayne D. Jimmie

P.O. Box 38
Minto Alaska, 99758

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I don't usually write letters to my representatives, but I find that I must do so now. I cannot believe there are representatives in our legislature who would introduce a bill such as HB 37. This bill is effectively weakening my right to collectively bargain with my employer. This so-called "right to work" bill does not give me any more right to work than I already have.

Show me that you are listening to working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely, Bennett D. Madros

Bennett D. Madros

PO Box 74
Kaltag AK 99748

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce,

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

I have been a resident of Alaska for many years and am appalled at this legislation.

I have watched "Right to Work" laws in other states; systematically lower wages, worker safety, and the economy.

"Right to Work" states consistently have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to health care and poorer schools.

"Right to Work" laws do not guarantee any rights; instead they inhibit the right to organize. Right to Work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement.

For the reasons stated above and many more too numerous to, list I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. This legislation is bad for Alaska and bad for the workers.

Sincerely,

Cory K Madras

Cory K Madras
P.O. Box 17 Kaltag, Ak 99748

RE: Alaska House Bill 37

In response to Rep Gatto's *right to work* legislation I'd like to set the record straight, as I interpret it, right to work doesn't guarantee any rights. In fact, by weakening unions and collective bargaining, it destroys the best job security protection that exists: the union contract. Meanwhile, it allows workers to pay nothing and get all the same benefits as I do as a union member. Right to work laws say unions must represent all eligible employees, whether they pay dues or not. This forces unions to use their time and members' dues money to provide union benefits to free riders who are not willing to pay their fair share. Right to Work laws are not the answer.

Sincerely,

WALTER V John
250 Pearl DR.
Fairbanks, AK 99712

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Workers need to band together to speak on their behalf. No one person can bargain for themselves as effectively as a large group of people. Unions are made up of people banding together for the benefit of all. Without a Union to speak and bargain for us we would slowly lose wages and benefits like any other "Right to Work" state. Alaska is independent and not should not be treated like just any other state. Please do not support HB 37.

Charles E. John
250 Pearl Dr
FBKS AK.

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

When I heard that "Right to Work" legislation had come to Alaska I thought it must be a joke. I felt we elected better representives than that. It seems though that someone has introduced "Right to Work" legislation. I will do everything I can to make sure this is that individuals last cycle as a representative. Also anyone supporting this "Right to Work" legislation will have a bull's eye on their hopes for reelection. We as Alaskans cannot stand by and let something as ugly as "Right to Work" to dirty up our state.

Please do not support HB 37.

Sincerely, gina madros

Gina Madros
P.O. Box 105
Kaltag, AK
99748-0105

March 25, 2009

RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

Please do not support Representative Gatto's HB 37, a Right-to-Work bill. In states that have passed right to work bills, worker safety statistics show more accidents and workers are paid less. Organizations supporting right to work laws are run and controlled by big business. I'd like to promote freedom in Alaska to organize and better myself in my job.

HB 37 is not designed to protect and help workers. It will do exactly the opposite.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dominic Sam

Dominic Sam
P.O. Box 47
Huslia, AK 99746

March 26, 2009

Damian Thomas
2830 Riverview Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

I returned to Alaska after going to school outside. I returned for several reasons, family, friends, quality of life, and a decent wage and the access to good union representation. All of those were sorely missed while I was moving from state to state in the lower 48. I found that a livable wage was hard to come by in Florida and Colorado. Those "right to work states" should be right to work for less, they have no one standing up for the working men and women. Here in Alaska we are lucky to have unions representing us on safety issues, wages, benefits, and training. It is sad to know that other states with right to work have lower wages and less of a safety culture. You as a committee need to realize what is in front of you and unanimously dismiss this legislation. Keep Alaska's workers safe, and keep Alaska an affordable place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Damian Thomas

Damian Thomas

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

As a safety conscious worker I am glad that my union stands up for safety on the job site. A higher rate of workplace deaths, 51% has been seen in "Right to Work" states. The work we do here in Alaska is tough enough. We do not need to add more deaths. Safety on the job is everyone's concern. Please keep me and my fellow workers safe by voting NO on the "Right to Work" legislation. I would never vote for anyone who supported "Right to Work" in Alaska.

Sincerely,

ERIC G. FENNO
PO. BOX 80426.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708.

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Over the years states that have adopted "Right to Work" legislation have seen the average wage for workers go down. Big Business would like nothing better than to have Unions out of the pictures. Without Unions to speak for us we would be reduced to the poverty level of other Right to Work states. Please vote against HB37

Hugh Garrity

1978 RAVEN DRIVE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709.

March 26, 2009

To The Committee on Labor and Commerce:

In my opinion, "Right to Work" just means the right to work for less. Good wages and good benefits are the only thing that keeps me working outside at -50. It make me very angry that some anti-union Representative is trying to attack the unions. Please do not support HB37.

Hugh Garrity

1978 RAVEN DR
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709.

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Workers need to band together to speak on their behalf. No one person can bargain for themselves as effectively as a large group of people. Unions are made up of people banding together for the benefit of all. Without a Union to speak and bargain for us we would slowly lose wages and benefits like any other "Right to Work" state. Alaska is independent and not should not be treated like just any other state. Please do not support HB 37.

Hugh Garrity

1978 RAVEN DR.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709.

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce,

I strongly urge you to oppose HB37, "Right to Work" Legislation.

As a longtime Alaskan, I'm appalled at this legislation.

If this right-to-work legislation is passed it would adversely impact Alaskan workers in the following ways:

1. They will make less money. Even considering our higher cost of living, Alaskan workers earn more than workers in states that have attacked paychecks with "Right-to-work" laws.

2. They will be less likely to have healthcare coverage. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 89 percent of union workers in private industry have health insurance compared with only 67 percent on nonunion workers. Union workers are also more likely to have retirement and short-term disability benefits.

3. They will be less likely to have a pension. 70 percent of union workers are covered by a defined benefit pension plan versus only 16 percent of nonunion workers.

4. They will be less likely to be injured or killed on the job. Once again, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in states with right-to-work laws, where unions can't peak on behalf of workers.

For the reasons stated above I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37.
This legislation is bad for Alaskan workers and Alaskan economy.

Sincerely, Robert C Kent

Robert C. Kent
1626 MARKET ST.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709.

To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

Please do not support HB 37. Rise in workplace injuries, poverty level wages and loss of medical benefits are what happens in states with "Right to Work" laws. Why would you want to do that to your fellow Alaskans? Unions support working people-who do you support? If you approve this bill, you certainly do not support the workers that voted for you in the election.

Rondell Jimmie

PO BOX 72376.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

To the State of Alaska Legislature

As a women union worker and voter in the state of Alaska I am disgusted at the thought of our legislature even thinking about passing the current right to work legislation. I demand that you vote no on this hurtful legislation. To quote the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, January 2002:

Right to Work and Women

Unions benefit all workers by raising wages for everyone, including women whose higher incomes help support their families. Right to work laws hurt women and their families by keeping wages low.

• Union women earn $149 more each week than nonunion women.

• Union membership narrows the pay gap for women. Nationally, the gap between men's and women's pay is 32 percent—but between all men and union women the gap is only 5 percent.

Please Vote NO and help me support my family.

Sincerely

Disgusted Voter Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mary Hailey

Mary Hailey

104 MARY LEIGH AVE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

March 25, 2009

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I ask you to vote no on HB 37. I do not understand why this legislation is called "Right to Work." The declaration of policy states that this bill will " maximize my individual freedom of choice in pursuit of employment" and my right to work will not be restricted or based on my decision to join a union. I already have this freedom and choice. I have never been denied employment because of union affiliation or my refusal to join a union.

Whose interest is this bill trying to protect? Is it the interests of the Alaskan working people or the interests of big business?

Show your support for working Alaskans by voting no on HB 37.

Sincerely,

Dewayne T Hailey

104 MARY LEIGH AVE.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701.

To the Committee of Labor and Commerce, March 25, 2009

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37, "Right to Work" legislation. The title of this proposed legislation is itself a matter of debate. "Right to work" is a play on words, wrapping in a web of deception, the legislations true intent, which is to enforce further restrictions on union activities. Such laws do not provide jobs for workers; they have historically prevented workers from building strong, stable workplaces.

Current Federal laws already protect workers who do not wish to join a union. The Taft-Hartley Act provides that no worker can be forced to join a union, and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs.

HB 37 does not rise from workers seeking their "rights". Sponsors and proponents for legislation such as HB 37 are uniformly employer organizations and related groups. These groups have proposed this retaliatory legislation to attempt to cripple the unions financially, weakening them and the collective bargaining process. This legislation is intended to discourage workers from joining a union or paying any dues, because they offer a deal that undermines worker solidarity- free representation.

Our state's economy will take a devastating blow if right-to-work legislation passes. In almost every other right-to-work state, workers have less disposable income to purchase goods and services. If introduced, this legislation will further slow down Alaska's economy just as it has other right-to-work states.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage you to oppose HB 37. Alaskan workers deserve better.

Sincerely,

Kevin Pomeroy
42 year Alaskan Resident
940 Goldmine Trail
FBKS. AK.
99712

3235 Hillary Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 25, 2009

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

Right to Work, HB 37

I am writing regarding "Right to Work" legislation before the House. I work for a Federal contractor that is not bound to State requirements of employment. Because of this I already have experience with Right to Work. At my place of employment I am subject to decisions by my employer with no representation or help from anyone beside myself. If the company decides that my pay is too high it is cut or I can be replaced with someone from the lower 48 willing to work for less. We receive only health coverage that we must pay for out of pocket that can be changed without notice as it did last year with less coverage for higher premiums. Finally, I have no pension. The Corporation participates in a 401K plan that, if I retire tomorrow, would require me to pay them as it has now lost all of my contributions.

It is imperative that you understand that allowing the State to adopt Right to Work laws will hurt Alaskans! Corporations and Contractors will have no reason to negotiate contracts with unions. Wages will be set by business and open the doors to non-residents willing to work at those wages until they leave and go back home. Retirement plans and medical coverage will be gone and those of us from Alaska will not be able to afford to retire and stay here.

I know that those Alaskans that don't like Unions or don't want to join Unions are pushing this Legislation but this will hurt them as well. They will not get representation any more than I do, if they even have a job that isn't filled by a non-Alaskan or non-US Citizen.

Do not believe for one moment that you are taking care of Alaskans; with this bill, you are not. Protect our jobs and our "Alaskan" workers.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Heiter

I oppose HB 37 and HB 185.

JASON ALWARD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MAR 27, 2009

I oppose HB 37 and 185

Sylvia MB Melland

Sylvia M B Melland
P.O. Box 770967
Eagle River AK
99577

I oppose HB 37 + 105

Shawn Erickson
1002 Oakridge Dr
Anchorage AK 99518

I oppose HB 37 and HB 185 David Hall Local 302 member

2807 Bass Street.
Anch., AK 99515

David Hall

R. A. Johnson 2807 Eureka St. Ana Ak 99503

I oppose HB 37 + HB185

I oppose HB 37 and 185

Sylvia MB Melland

Sylvia M B Melland
P.O. Box 770967
Eagle River AK
99577

I oppose HB 37 + 185

Shawn Erickson
1002 Oakridge Dr
Anchorage AK 99518

I oppose HB 37 and HB 185 David Hall Local 302 member

2807 Bass Street.
Anch., AK 99515

David Hall

R. A. Johnson 2807 Eureka St. Ana Ak 99503

I oppose HB 37 + HB 186