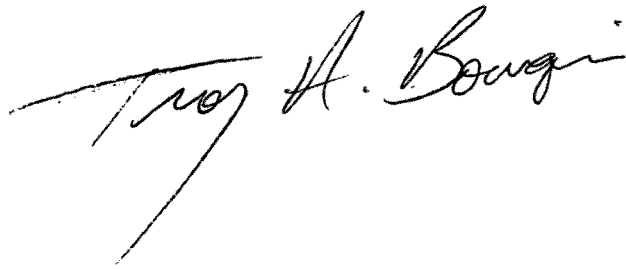


To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Troy A. Bourquin". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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 Gmebar 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
Joe/ 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



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 BARANOFF 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

Senator McCormick
Jember McCormick

724 Oueda way
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 Apustill

P.O. Box 84247

Fairbanks, AK. 99708

g. Apustill

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



1204 27th Ave

FBK5 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
Nicholas 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

~~Barrett~~ ~~and~~ ~~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

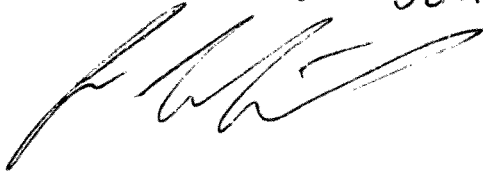
RE: Alaska House Bill 37 Right-to-Work

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,

Camille J. Wipig
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
FBIKS 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

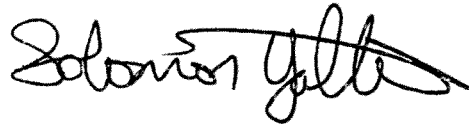
Fairbanks AK

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 K. Yatlín
3748 Swenson Ave. #5
Fairbanks, AK
-99709-



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,

Alice 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



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,

Cora M. 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 than 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
P.O. Box 23
Koyukuk, AK

1 (907) 927-2218

99754

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, Nemanu 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



3-26-07

P.O. Box 183
Nunaa, 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,

Albion Jimmie

Minto, AK 99758

P.O. box 38

School lot. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Sweat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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 not 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 Kriska
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,

Fenny Sam Jr.

Fenny 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
Kaitag, 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

Katag AK 98748
P.O. 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

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 G. Jimmie

P.O. Box 38

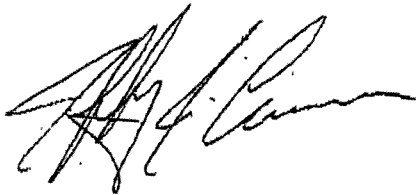
Minto Alaska, 99758

March 26, 2009

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.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J Creamer
1873 Bridgewater Dr
Fairbanks AK 99709

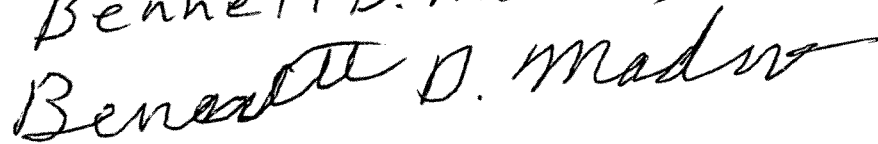
March 25, 2009

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


PO Box 74
Kaktas 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 H. Madros

Cory H. Madros

P.O. Box 17 Kattag, 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. Johu
250 Pearl Dr
FBKs AK.

Charles E. Johu

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 representatives 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
Kaktag, 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

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,

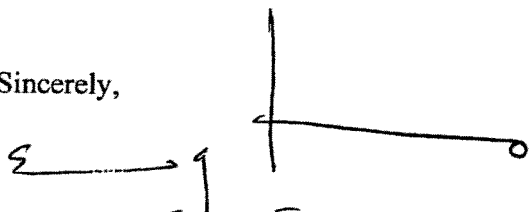
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Damian Thomas".

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

H.L. CA

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

H. L. C.

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

HG

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
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

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
My Hailey

104 MARY LEIGH AVE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

March 25, 2009

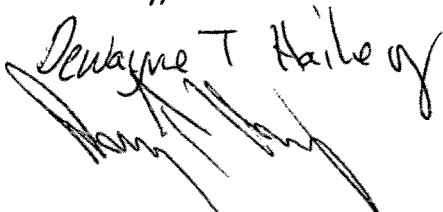
To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

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,

Denayne T Bailey

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.

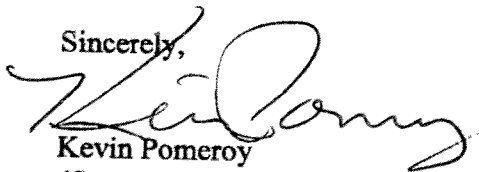
Current Federal laws already protect workers who do not wish to join a union. The Taft-Hartley Act provides that no worker can be forced to join a union; and nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs.

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} ~~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