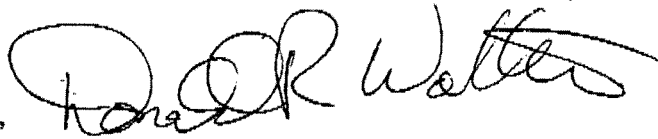


To the Committee on Labor and Commerce,

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,



Don Walters
214 7th Ave #5
FBKS AK 99201

March 26, 2009

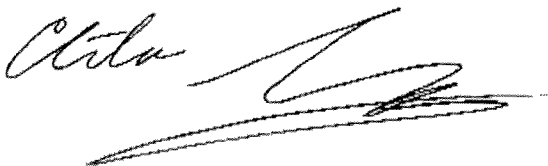
To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I urge you to vote no on HB 37. Why is this legislation 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. This freedom and choice is already addressed in the Federal law. I have never been denied employment because of union affiliation or my refusal to join a union.

Who is this bill trying to protect? Is it Alaskan working people or Big Business?

Working Alaskans need your support by voting NO on HB 37.

Sincerely, CLETUS SIPARY
PO BOX 65114
NULATO, AK 99765



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,

Robert McAdams
212 7th Ave #7
FBKS 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,

Joe Coety Jr
615 Ditch St
FBKS, ALASKA 99712

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,

Bill Hanson
869 Delphinium Ln
FbKs, 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, *William Perry*

William Perry
1233 Rangeview RD
North Pole, AK 99705
907-750-1788

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

Daniel G Firmin
(907) 978-9026

Daniel G Firmin
1314 Wakeforest way
Alaska 99709

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



Sean Rice

2521 cydcedale dr
North Pole AK
99705

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

MARK ROSSER

PO Box 71606

FAIRBANKS, AK

99707

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,



Loretta J. Lolnitz

POB 25

Koyukuk, AK

- 99754-

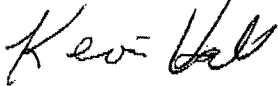
To the Alaska Legislature.

I am writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 37 that is currently before the committee of Labor and Commerce. If passed this bill would make Alaska a right-to-work state and it will end up hurting Alaskan workers' pay, benefits, job security as well as our state's economy.

I strongly encourage you to oppose House Bill 37. Alaskan workers deserve better representation than this! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall



4001 Birch Lane

FBI's, 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,

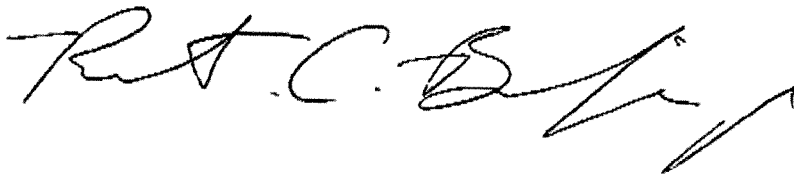
Matthew Cross
1166 IVY DR Fairbanks, AK 99709
Matthew 

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.

Robert C. Benefield Jr.

2065 Rust Ave,
North Pole AK. 99705

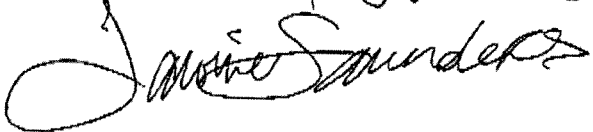


4-2-09

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

J

Tawnie M. Saunders


1489 Spring Glade Rd.

Fairbanks, AK
99709

907-347-6453

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

Charles Paskvan

CHARLES PASKVAN

(907) 456-2537

517 STATE ST.

ELKS AK 99701

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, John Ward

John Ward
1357 Sloan
W. Pt. Barrow AK

99711

Dear Alaska Legislator,

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

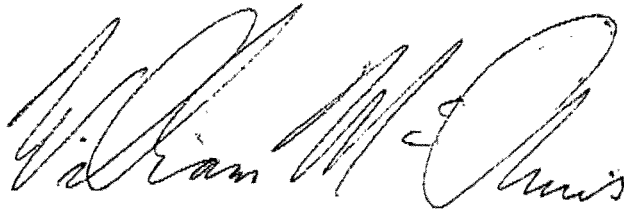
This is an important issue that impacts everyone. Right to work laws benefit only employers who want to pay less and violate worker rights, ignore safety standards, and generally screw their employees at will.

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. 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.

Alaskans economic woes will not be solved by impoverishing the middle class...

Please do not support these bills.

Sincerely,



William McAmis

P.O. Box 81214

Fairbanks, AK 99708

(907) 455-6525

Alaska Legislature

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 37. Right to work laws have lowered the standard of living and taken rights away from hard working people in several other states.

Right to work laws do nothing, but take away the ability of workers to have a strong voice in the workplace.

Alaskans have always had a unique attitude when it comes to politics. Don't fall into the trap of the anti-worker groups.

I oppose HB 37 and any other legislation that would turn Alaska into another poverty stricken state, and would strongly encourage you to oppose it as well.

Thank you,

Donald Wilton DONALD WILTON
627 BOTTLE ST.
NORTH POLE, AK

Dear Alaska Representative,

RE: VOTE NO ON HB 37

Hello my name is Zebulon Woodman I am a third generation Alaskan Laborer. In the last 14 years I have worked all over Alaska out of the Laborers Local 942. I have seen first hand the benefits of belonging to a union. My father and grand father both draw retirements from their time in the laborers union. I currently work under collectively bargained contract witch provides me and my family a living wage, a retirement fund, and health care. As a father of two young boys the collectively bargained health care is now helping the fourth generation of my family.

Today I am urging you to vote against House Bill 37 The so called "right to work for LESS" legislation is a direct attack on union members and their families. By weakening unions and collective barging, it destroys the best possible job security protection that exists, "the union contract." States that operate under right to work are infamous for having low wages and there for small tax bases. Low wages do not benefit Alaskan families or our communities.

Furthermore House bill 37 takes away valuable resources from those union members who have invested hard work and dues, by forcing unions to provide benefits and representation for non dues paying free riders who are not willing to pay there fair share.

This bill erodes the next generations' ability to collectively bargain a fair contract.

Right to work laws are not the answer. Please vote no on house bill 37.

Sincerely,


Zebulon Woodman

1804 Roberts Rd
FBKS, AK 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,



MARK ROSSER

PO Box 71606

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" driving down wages. In the states where these bill have passed pay for ALL workers has gone down. In today's economy, the last thing we need is a bill that lowers the pay of hard working Alaskans. Please vote NO on HB 37 and HB 185 the anti- local hire bill.

Sincerely,

Darrell Phillip Kriska

4903 Drake st

FBKS AK 99709

Danell P Kriska

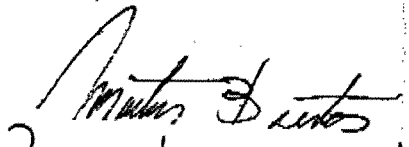
March 25, 2009

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,


Martin Bustos

1737 University Ave #615
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709