

LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION of NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 942

2740 DAVIS RD., FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709, (907) 456-4584 722 W. 9th ST., JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801, (907) 586-2860 FAIRBANKS FAX (907) 452-6285 JUNEAU FAX (907) 586-5757



KEVIN POMEROY Business Manager Secretary-Treasurer

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair Labor and Commerce Committee The Alaska State House of Representatives State Capital, Room 24 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman Olson;

Laborers' Local 942 represent over 1,100 working Alaskans in construction, public transit, hospitality, and military service contracts. Our members, whom reside from Ketchikan to the arctic villages of Kaktovik and Nuiqsut, were involved in the collection of over 43,000 signatures to ensure the Minimum Wage effort was on the ballot; and we adamantly oppose House Bill 384.

Currently there is an initiative on the ballot for the voters of this State to decide on. There are some in the Legislature who feel it might be their "civic duty" to introduce a bill very similar to the Initiative, just as back in 2001 with the passage of HB56.

Yet what happen next was those "civic minded folks" rushed back to Juneau as quickly as they could the following session; to rip out the cost of living provisions- freezing the minimum wage for 8 years.

Freezing the minimum wage for 8 years was certainly not the intent of 50,000 signatures of the Initiative back in 2001. Yet, after those "civic minded folks" got involved; that was how it played out.

Some would say by "design".

We are starting to get that "Deja vu" feeling. We are starting to get the feeling that a couple of "civic minded folks" don't want to allow **this** Initiative on the ballot. We are getting the feeling they don't want it to be decided by the voters on August 19. We are starting to get the feeling that there is a "by design" effort, by a couple of "civic minded folks".

Initiative's like this are passed by the people and can't be touched by the legislature, while statute's passed by the lawmakers can be changed at any time the Legislature wants to pass it. It's pretty obvious to us what a couple of "civic minded folks" are trying to do.

Please let the Minimum Wage question stay on the ballot. Let the voters decide in August. We urge you to oppose HB 384.

Kevin Pomeroy

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Laborers' Local 942