



ALASKA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS

Laborer's International Union of North America

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Dennis Moen

Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer
District Council

Business Manager
Public Employees Local 71

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

Dear Chairman Olson;

Joey Merrick

President
District Council

Business Manager
Laborers Local 341

The Alaska District Council of Laborers represents over 6,500 working people from Ketchikan to Kotzebue in a wide variety of classifications from employees in private construction to the men and women who keep Alaska's airports and facilities functioning. We and our members were deeply involved in the collection of over 43,000 Alaskan signatures to place the Minimum Wage question on the ballot, and we oppose House Bill 384.

Kevin Pomeroy

Vice President
District Council

Business Manager
Laborers Local 942

As you are aware, the protections offered within initiative-passed legislation are much more substantive than those passed by the common legislative process. If HB 384 passed this session, the legislature can amend it by the end of January 2015. For that matter, the legislature could reconvene in a lame duck session before the seating of the next legislature and remove the very provisions it just passed. Consequently, the Alaska District Council of Laborers would view any legislative attempt to subvert a vote on the pending initiative before Alaskans as an anti-worker action.

Alaskans in the lowest wage occupations—those affected most by this initiative—are the very individuals that need a raise the most. They work in our fish processing industry, hospitality industry, and many other segments of the service industry, which are critically important jobs to Alaska's economy. While the cost of living steadily increases, employees earning a minimum wage have not had their wage adjusted accordingly and are struggling to pull out of poverty.

Please support the most vulnerable segment of Alaska's workforce and let the Minimum Wage question stay on the ballot. We urge you to oppose HB 384.

Respectfully,

Dennis Moen
Business Manager
Alaska District Council of Laborers