

## 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

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Mr. Chairman

My name is Kevin Pomeroy, I'm the Business Manager of Laborers Local 942, and I thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions on Senate Bill 23.

I am a 45 year resident of Fairbanks, a home owner, married and have raised my children here in the interior. Even as the owner of a 5\* plus energy efficient home, I have watched the cost of energy- in terms of electricity and space heat- escalate to a point that has me wondering how do young folks afford to be a homeowner in Fairbanks. Cost of energy, has forced many residents to reconsider living in Fairbanks and even Alaska. Extremely high energy costs have continued to leave many families with little to no discretionary income. It goes without saying, how this also affects local businesses with respect to goods and services sold.

SB 23 would authorize the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to provide financing for construction of a natural gas lique faction facility on the North Slope, allowing trucking of liquefied natural gas, and the build-out of needed infrastructure. This would ease some suffering, with reduced energy cost for interior rural residents; with affordable natural gas and propane.

For several election cycles, many campaign promises spoke of a large diameter line... a small diameter line... a line to tide water... a line into Canada; yet here we are with optimism and opportunity fading. Senate Bill 23 would be a stepping stone toward actually delivering affordable energy to the Interior, until collective heads can finally come together on a pipeline project, size and route.

In closing, as the conversations continue on SB 23, I hope that they would include resident or local hire provisions. Interior residents could benefit from construction opportunities, until such time, that affordable natural gas begins to alleviate their financial burden. We have all been on the airplanes with rows of out of state workers, either coming or going to the slope. It's been said, "You know when local hire is working, because your friends and neighbors are working". Mr. Chairman, too many of my friends and neighbors are not

working. Enforceable resident hire provisions, would help keep the badly needed wages circulating through Alaska; not the lower 48.

I support SB 23 and thank you for your time.

Regards,

Kevin Pomeroy Business Manager

**Laborers Local 942**