



International Union of Operating Engineers LOCAL 302 • Washington and Alaska • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager and General Vice President*

Corey Baxter, *District 8 Representative*

March 14, 2016

House Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: HB 313

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 oppose HB 313 due to the fact that, with the absence of prevailing wages, it will increase taxpayers burdens by increasing the likelihood that construction workers will earn incomes below the poverty level, become more dependent on public assistance and will not have health insurance and retirement benefits.

In 2011 the threshold was raised to \$25,000 which was an increase of 12.5 times of what it was since 1972. By raising the threshold even higher it could cause construction contracts to be split in half making them into 2 bids which would take projects up to \$150,000 off of the table.

HB313 will not lower construction costs. It will only lower the working men and women's livable wages which will cause a race to the bottom.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Corey Baxter
District 8 Representative