



ELECTRONIC MAIL

Representative Jesse Sumner, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee

Re: Opposition to HB 186 - Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program

Dear Representative Sumner:

As the primary trade organization representing the residential construction industry in Alaska, the Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA) writes to respectfully express its opposition to HB 186 establishing a Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program in the State of Alaska.

ASHBA understands and shares your commitment to ensuring fair labor practices, however we believe that implementing a volunteer-based compliance officer program as proposed under HB 186 is not an effective or equitable solution.

Relying on volunteers to enforce labor compliance may compromise the quality and consistency of inspections. Volunteers may lack the necessary training, expertise, and impartiality required to address complex labor issues effectively. This could lead to inaccurate assessments and potential legal complications for businesses like ours.

The use of volunteers may also lead to conflicts of interest or biases that could undermine the program's integrity. Volunteers might have personal connections or preconceived notions that could impact their ability to make impartial judgments, potentially leading to unfair outcomes. It is problematic that HB 186 gives these volunteers access to view, copy and take offsite confidential business information.

Rather than relying on a volunteer-based model, we urge your consideration of alternative approaches to enhance labor compliance, such as investing in professional training programs for the state's compliance officers or increasing the resources allocated to the state's existing regulatory agencies. This would help ensure that the enforcement of labor standards remains consistent, reliable, and fair.

ASHBA appreciates your dedication to addressing labor compliance issues and believes that a more robust and professional approach without the risk of unintended consequences is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bunts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Bunts, President
Alaska State Home Building Association

Cc: Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee