

Good afternoon House Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

I am sending this in support of HB 186. I have been a carpenter in Alaska since 1998. Throughout my 25 years of work I have seen many construction workers deal with being inappropriately paid. Many are misclassified or have their classification changed by the employer whenever the employer decides. The changes in classification/wage rates may even change multiple times per day depending on how the employer wants to classify certain job tasks throughout the day. I have never witnessed a wage and hour investigator checking on a job site nor have I ever heard of one coming on to a job site. Most construction workers don't even know that there is an agency that they can speak with to help with these issues, they just accept lower pay rates in order to keep their jobs.

I think it is time for Alaska to take the lead on this topic, especially since our construction industry is so large here and with a lot of the infrastructure work coming to Alaska it's going to grow like nothing we have seen before including the pipeline.

Now is the time to protect the Alaska workforce. I fully support HB 186 and Alaska's hard working construction industry, we need help to protect fair wages which are crucial to our families. I ask that the House Labor and Commerce Committee please stand with us on HB 186 and help protect Alaska's working class families.

Thank you for your time.