

January 22, 2024

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Bill Doss, I am the General Manager of Eklutna Construction & Maintenance. We specialize in vertical construction in the commercial, military, and private development markets. We also perform work in civil and underground projects. We are also members of the AGC of Alaska (Associated General contractors of Alaska).

I am writing to you today in SUPPORT of House Bill 186.

Over the past several years we have seen a decline in the enforcement of labor laws across this state. The direct impacts to our company are costly, burdensome, and real. When contractors cheat and misclassify their workers as “independent contractors” they avoid paying for workers compensation. As more contractors adopt this scheme it pushes up premiums for contractors like Eklutna who play by the rules.

When employers misclassify their employees as lesser paid craft, they not only cheat the employee out of wages that are rightfully due, but they also create an unfair bidding advantage against contractors like us, who do not engage in these misclassification schemes. This means that Eklutna and other honest contractors win fewer jobs. This directly impacts on our ability to perform jobs as well as employe Alaska workers.

We are looking at quite possibly the largest construction boom in our state’s history over the next 5-10 years. If we are currently not keeping up and enforcing Alaska labor laws, I shudder to think how much worse off things will get as historic levels of federal dollars roll in for infrastructure work across our state.

I urge you to pass House Bill 186.

Thank you,

Bill Doss
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