

Subject: Re: Letters of Support

Representative Sumner, House Labor and Commerce Committee ~

I am writing in support of HB 186. I am 42 and work as a (female) carpenter in an industry inhabited by men and rashness. I love my work, I love seeing the fruits of my labor around Anchorage in the form of a hotel, housing, hospital buildings and businesses.

As a minority and a hard worker, I appreciate oversight to make sure that the industry lives by the requirements that we as a society have decided are wise. I have never seen a wage and hour investigator on one of my jobs. I was not aware that this oversight existed. As someone who works hard for my wages, and then expects to be paid fairly, I appreciate there being recourse and accountability.

~ Kelley Wiley ~
Mountain View

Subject: Support of HB 186

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee

I am writing in support of HB 186 or House Bill 186

My name is Julie Schnyder and I have been a carpenter for 15 years in Alaska, through the years of my carpentry experience I've witnessed many incidences of missclassification of workers and wage theft. I think this bill is essential for holding the contractors and others that may take advantage of the working class accountable. Though I have seen many incidences of illegal, under the table, misclassification, or wage theft, 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 are unaware that there is an agency that they can speak with to help with these issues.

Alaska is on the precipice of being a leader in growth and industry, in order to do this I believe that Alaska has to take the lead on fair work practices to protect the many crucial workers and families that will be building this great state. 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.

Julie Schnyder

From: Jason Pattengale <jason.pattengale@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:57 PM
To: Sarena Hackenmiller <Sarena.Hackenmiller@akleg.gov>
Subject: In support of HB 186

Greetings House Labor and Commerce Committee members-

My name is Jason Pattengale and I have been a carpenter in Alaska for nearly 10 years. I am writing you to lend my voice in support of HB 186. I think it is vital for the people of Alaska to have an equal playing field in order to provide for themselves and their families. It is my belief that unprotected wages contribute to an imbalance in available work for the hard working people in this state. I also foresee the passing of this bill as a step in the right direction to help the working class stay in the community. I mention this because I have watched several of my friends leave Alaska in recent years, and heard of many others, because good paying jobs in the construction field are becoming more scarce.

Thanks for your time
Jason Pattengale

Subject: Bill186

House Labor and Commerce Committee

I am a local carpenter writing in support of HB 186. I have worked several jobs over the years I have never once seen a wage investigator come a a job. To be honest I had no idea there were investigators that should be coming to jobs.

If you have never seen a wage and hour investigator on your job, mention that. If investigations were conducted regularly we would see as many complaints from workers about labor misclassifications because they would have been seen and caught before it was a major or even a minor grievance.

Jenne Denton

Subject: Letter of Support for HB 186

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am an Alaskan carpenter writing in support of House Bill 186.

I'll keep this brief, as I'm sure you and I are both busy folks.

Not once in my 5+ years of labor in this state, have I ever seen a wage and hour investigator on any carpentry job I have worked. I have been paid the wrong wage and received paychecks for the wrong number of hours in the past. I am fairly diligent with reviewing my checks, so I have caught these mistakes (at least as far as I know) but I wonder how many workers have never noticed and have been underpaid for years.

This bill has the potential to be a huge benefit for construction workers across our entire state. I hope you do everything you can to pass HB 186, so that we can have independant wage investigators making sure that our hard working men and women get fair compensation for their labor.

Thank you very much,
-Oleksandr Lushchyk