



UNITED ASSOCIATION

Of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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Letters should
be confined to
one subject.

UA Local Union: 375

Subject: HB 186

January 24, 2024

House Labor & Commerce
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

House Labor & Commerce Committee,

I have been employed in Alaska's construction industry for almost 40 years and have been fortunate enough to have worked for some very stand-up contractors. I didn't have to worry about wage theft or whether I was covered in case of a jobsite accident. That isn't the case for some of our current Alaskan workforce, who might be young, or might not understand how wage rates or working rules should apply in the industry. These workers are being cheated out of the wages that they are entitled to, and jobsite protections, for them and their families, in case of an injury.

The budget has been tight for Alaska, and we haven't had the oversight we are needing in this area, if a contractor will cheat a worker out of a fair day of pay, for a fair day of work, knowing oversight is lacking, then what will stop the unscrupulous contractors from cheating in other areas of the industry. Maybe quality control is the next victim.

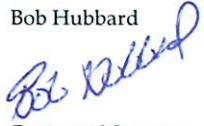
With all the infrastructure money that is coming to the state, lawmakers should do the right thing and protect our residents, protect the wages of the working families in Alaska, and the public safety of all Alaskans. It is nice to know when you are buying property with your hard-earned money, that it has been constructed by a stand-up contractor that hasn't stolen a working person's wage or cut corners on the quality of a project.

If we don't police the rules that all contractors should abide by, the "stand up contractor" always trying to do the right thing will not survive, the cheaters would prevail. The State of Alaska is better than that. The working families in Alaska deserve better than that. I would urge the committee to support HB 186 and vote it out of your committee.

If you are not cheating, you have nothing to worry about. If you are cheating, then HB 186, the Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer Program, will help in keeping some unscrupulous contractors honest. This will keep the money in the pockets of the middle-class workers and that is how to keep our economy strong.

Thank you for your consideration on this important subject,

Bob Hubbard


Business Manager
UA Local 375
Plumbers & Pipefitters