



# HICKEL CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING, INC.

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22 January 2024

Representative Sumner and  
L & C Committee

RE: Letter of support for HB 186

I am writing to you today as a co-owner of Hickel Construction & Engineering, Inc., based in Anchorage Alaska. Our firm has been performing construction in Alaska since 1991, and our family since the 1940's. On average we employ 20-30 trades people in the construction industry.

This is a letter supporting and urging the committee and legislature to pass house bill 186.

In the construction industry it is no secret that there are numerous ways to cheat payroll, payroll taxes, workers compensation and the workers. Most contractors choose to follow the established labor laws in our state. However, that is unfortunately not the case with ALL contractors. This in turn hurts those of us who are running honest businesses as well as workers and the State of Alaska.

We see this as a growing problem in our industry. Coupled with what we have seen as less oversight on both prevailed wage work and private sector work, Alaska is ripe for fraud.

As a contractor working and living in Alaska, this bill appears to be a great way to make certain that our laws are being followed. It also looks to be an affordable approach to a problem that has clearly been suffering from lack of funding for years.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Alaskan businesses, Alaskan workers and our Great State. I look forward to House Bill 186 passing as written.  
Sincerely,

Hickel Construction & Engineering, Inc.

Peter J. Hickel, President  
Cc: VEH/file