



Michael T. Gould
Excel Construction, Inc.
7901 King St.
Anchorage, AK 99518

January 25, 2024

To Representative Sumner and HL&C Committee members:

My name is Michael T. Gould and I own and operate Excel Construction in Anchorage, AK. We are in our 41st year of business, we are members of the AGC of Alaska and on average we employ 25 hard working Alaskans.

I am writing to you today on behalf of myself and Excel construction in full support of House Bill 186, the Volunteer Labor Compliance Officer program.

Alaska has been a great place to own and operate a construction company, unfortunately we continue to see a steady increase in unscrupulous contractors taking advantage of Alaska's poorly enforced labor laws. When contractors start cheating through various schemes of worker misclassification, tax fraud, human trafficking, cheating on apprentice utilization and many other illicit practices.

At Excel Construction, we pride ourselves on playing by the labor laws we have in this state. We are a competitive and successful company. Unfortunately, the less oversight we see, the harder it has become to compete in what is supposed to be a fair market.

This hurts me as a business owner, and it hurts the workers we employ. I know I am not the only contractor who has seen a rise in questionable practices and decline in Wage and Hour enforcement. If the State does not do something soon to get a grasp on this situation, we will only see further degradation of our industry. With the amount of infrastructure money and military spending slated for our State I do not believe our labor laws will be enforced to the standards we at Excel, and other fair honest contractors depend on.

House Bill 186 is a creative way to help enforce our current laws which in turn will protect businesses like mine and many others and ensure Alaska remains a great state to do business.

I look forward to this bill becoming law so we can all work together to put an end to human labor trafficking, tax fraud, worker misclassification and so forth.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael T. Gould'.

Michael T. Gould

