



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 302 • Washington • Alaska • Idaho • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager & General Vice President*

March 22, 2024

House State Affairs Committee

Re: HB 173

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 strongly opposes HB 173.

Raising the current Davis-Bacon threshold of \$25,000 to \$150,000 for public construction contracts would only create a more significant workforce shortage in Alaska and a race to the lowest standard of living possible to survive. Prevailing wage statutes were implemented to ensure that workers are paid fair wages and prevent contractors from undercutting each other by paying their employees less. This Bill, HB 173, will do precisely that and pay every Alaskan worker less. In today's world of enormous inflation and the cost of living, we need to compensate our highly skilled Alaskan workers with good-paying wages and benefits.

I urge you and your colleagues to leave the threshold at \$25,000 and vote no on HB173. This is not the time to mess with Alaska's workers.

Sincerely,

Corey Baxter
District 8 Representative
Local 302

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