



# WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



Sean Hartranft  
President

Frank Hawk  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Frank Zambrano  
Vice President

59 Spokane, WA

82 Great Falls, MT

96 NW Millwrights

196 Pile Drivers, WA

206 Seattle, WA

213 Los Angeles, CA

323 So. Los Angeles, CA

360 So. Puget Sound, WA

425 No. Puget Sound, WA

503 Portland, OR

541 Eugene, OR

555 Colorado

562 Long Beach, CA

619 San Diego, CA

635 Boise, ID

661 Sylmar, CA

714 Buena Park, CA

721 Whittier, CA

743 Bakersfield, CA

801 Utah

805 Camarillo, CA

808 Idaho Falls, ID

909 Ontario, CA

951 Riverside, CA

971 Reno, NV

1136 Kettle Falls, WA

1243 Fairbanks, AK

1281 Anchorage, AK

1319 New Mexico

1607 Millwrights

1912 Arizona

1977 Las Vegas, NV

2520 Pile Drivers & Divers, AK

2761 McCleary, WA

2851 La Grande, OR

2949 Roseburg, OR

March 27, 2024

Representative Laddie Shaw  
Chair, House State Affairs Committee  
120 4th St, Gruenberg 120  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Shaw,

I am writing on behalf of Carpenters Union Locals 1243, 1281, and 2520, proudly representing over 1,000 hardworking tradespeople who make significant contributions to the great State of Alaska. As a state that values its workforce and prioritizes safety, we believe HB 173 is an assault on our communities and local workforce.

Prevailing wage laws have long been a tool responsible for uplifting communities, safeguarding the rights of **ALL** construction workers, and protecting local businesses from unscrupulous out-of-state contractors. These laws have been proven to reduce wage disparities and prevent workers from being underpaid, thereby improving the living standards for workers and their families. Prevailing wage law also serves as a powerful protection for our local economy, leveling the playing field and ensuring that tax dollars flow to local contractors who, in turn, attract a highly skilled local workforce.

Unfortunately, voting in favor of HB 173 would shift the focus of construction contractors toward labor costs rather than core competencies and efficiencies, leading to several unintended consequences. Increasing the current threshold from \$25,000 to \$150,000 as the bill proposes risks compromising the quality of work, exacerbating inequality, undermining contractor accountability, and diminishing fair competition.

Contrary to the narrative that raising the threshold would stimulate job growth, our experience suggests otherwise. Lowering the threshold would likely discourage individuals from pursuing careers in skilled trades due to reduced wages, thereby shrinking the pool of skilled workers available for projects. Moreover, lowering the threshold would reduce the number of projects subject to oversight, facilitating wage theft and other labor violations by unscrupulous contractors, to the detriment of responsible local contractors who rely on fair competition.

If HB 173 were to pass, it would inevitably result in reductions in worker wages, benefits, and apprenticeship training opportunities. Contractors would prioritize short-term gains over long-term investments in worker training, healthcare, and retirement security, ultimately undermining the stability and prosperity of our local workforce and businesses.



# WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



**Sean Hartranft**  
President

**Frank Hawk**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

**Frank Zambrano**  
Vice President

59 Spokane, WA  
82 Great Falls, MT  
96 NW Millwrights  
196 Pile Drivers, WA  
206 Seattle, WA  
213 Los Angeles, CA  
323 So. Los Angeles, CA  
360 So. Puget Sound, WA  
425 No. Puget Sound, WA  
503 Portland, OR  
541 Eugene, OR  
555 Colorado  
562 Long Beach, CA  
619 San Diego, CA  
635 Boise, ID  
661 Sylmar, CA  
714 Buena Park, CA  
721 Whittier, CA  
743 Bakersfield, CA  
801 Utah  
805 Camarillo, CA  
808 Idaho Falls, ID  
909 Ontario, CA  
951 Riverside, CA  
971 Reno, NV  
1136 Kettle Falls, WA  
1243 Fairbanks, AK  
1281 Anchorage, AK  
1319 New Mexico  
1607 Millwrights  
1912 Arizona  
1977 Las Vegas, NV  
2520 Pile Drivers & Divers, AK  
2761 McCleary, WA  
2851 La Grande, OR  
2949 Roseburg, OR

We urge you to vote **NO** on HB 173 and stand in defense of our local workforce and businesses.

Sincerely,

Chris Dimond  
Government Affairs Representative  
Western States Regional Council of Carpenters