



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
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April 1, 2024

Via Email Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov

The Honorable Representative Laddie Shaw
Chair House State Affairs Committee
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Letter of Opposition for House Bill 173: Public Construction Contracts

Representative Shaw:

Alaska Teamsters Local 959 writes in opposition to House Bill 173, public construction contracts that qualify for a prevailing wage known as Little Davis-Bacon. Alaska is on the verge of a construction renaissance with the most available funding since the construction of the pipeline. However, Alaska's cost of living and housing market remain some of the highest in the country with no decline in the projected future. To attract qualified workers to utilize this funding and bring Alaska into the future, we must be able to pay them prevailing wages.

Raising the threshold to qualify for prevailing wages from \$25,000 to \$150,000 will limit the ability of both public and private crafts and trades to recruit and retain workers. Alaska must stand in the vanguard of desirable places to work, live, and build a life. Limiting valuable resources of qualified craftsmen and women will only prolong Alaska's much-needed development.

Teamsters Local 959 requests that the committee please oppose House Bill 173.

Sincerely,
Teamsters Local 959

Patrick FitzGerald
Political Coordinator

PF:jk

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