

Submitter: Nikolai Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB2057

Good day,

My name is Nikolai Anderson and I am writing to you in support of the HV-257 Wage Theft Protection Act.

I am fortunate enough to have worked as a union carpenter for my entire construction career and have never experienced wage theft, but the answer is obvious.

Clearly whatever systems in place are ineffective at addressing the issue of wage theft, if they were effective it would no longer be a problem.

On the job site the greatest power and authority is the General Contractor. They are responsible for safety standards and construction standards of their sub-contractors. Making sure that these subcontractors are taking care of their employees is an extension of their responsibilities.

A worker ending up homeless due to wage theft is the fault of the GC as well as the subcontractor who wronged the employee, the same as if they were physically injured on the job site. The GC's must take responsibility for the financial injuries caused by their choices as well.

If someone is physically hurt, the GC is responsible, so why are they not responsible for financial injury? After all it was their decision to hire that contractor, they must face the consequences of their decisions and take responsibility rather than shifting responsibility to the injured worker.

Thank you,

-Nikolai Anderson