



May 16, 2022

Senator Eric Pratt  
Chair, Jobs and Economic Growth  
Committee  
3219 Minnesota Senate Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor  
Chair, Workforce and Business  
Development Committee  
379 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Conference Committee Members,

As the state labor federation representing over 300,000 union members who belong to over 1,000 local unions, we are writing to ask you to prioritize the needs of working Minnesotans trying to regain their footing in the wake of two years of a global pandemic that has made existing racial and economic inequities even worse. The following provisions that are only in the House version will help working Minnesotans:

- A Paid Family and Medical Leave social insurance program providing job protection and partial wage replacement for workers taking up to 12 weeks of leave to care for their own or a loved one's serious medical condition or to bond with a new child.
- Ending the unfair exclusion of hourly school employees from eligibility for unemployment insurance.
- Funding for Building Strong Communities, a multi-trade apprenticeship readiness program that has been intentionally designed to connect women, BIPOC community members, and veterans with union building and construction trades careers.
- Funding for Unidos MN and the New Justice Project to help prepare workers of color for great careers in the union construction industry.
- OSHA federal penalty conformity to maintain an effective state program.
- Funding for the Public Employee Relations Board.
- Earned Sick and Safe Time so workers can take paid time off when they are sick or in a dangerous situation.
- Measures to increase the safety of warehouse workers.
- Requiring that outside contractors at oil refineries have apprenticeship-level training to ensure workplace and community safety.
- An increase in funding for prevailing wage enforcement to ensure federal infrastructure dollars coming to Minnesota create family-sustaining jobs.
- Strengthening protections for local workers during the energy transition, including prevailing wage requirements for large wind and solar projects.
- Authorizing a Buy Clean/Buy Fair pilot program.
- Increased staffing and capacity for the Commerce Fraud Bureau.

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- The House approach to providing for window cleaner safety.

And we support the following provision in the Senate bill:

- Requiring the Department of Commerce to conduct a study on advanced nuclear power generation.

We strongly oppose the Senate provisions that roll back key components of the 2019 Wage Theft Prevention Act that ensure workers know what they are supposed to be paid, and that penalties are sufficient to deter employers from violating the law.

The past two years of a global pandemic has made it clearer than ever that working people need, stronger enforcement of labor standards, stronger workplace safety protections, more opportunities to enter careers that pay a family-sustaining wage, expanded access to unemployment benefits, and paid leave to take care of themselves, their loved ones, and to protect public health. We hope conference committee members will prioritize the needs of working Minnesotans in this bill.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hysing  
Legislative Director

Cc: Senator Jason Rarick  
Senator Gary Dahms  
Senator David Senjem  
Senator Nick Frentz  
Representative Rob Ecklund  
Representative Jamie Long  
Representative Zack Stephenson  
Representative Chris Swedzinski





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