

United Labor Centre
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414



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March 28, 2025

Boilermakers #647
Bricklayers & Allied
Craftworkers #1
Cabinet Makers & Millmen
#1865
Carpenters #851
Carpenters & Floorlayers
#1644
Carpet, Linoleum, Resilient
Tile Layers, Terrazzo
Workers & Finishers #596
Cement Masons #633
City Employees #363
Construction & General
Laborers #563
Electrical Workers #292
Elevator Constructors #9
Glaziers & Glassworkers
#L-1324
Heat & Frost Insulators
& Allied Workers #34
Iron Workers #512
Iron Workers Shopmen #535
Lathers #9190L
Millwrights #548
Operating Engineers #49
Painters #386
Pile Drivers & Dock Builders
#1847
Pipefitters #539
Plasterers #265
Plumbers #15
Roofers #96
Sheet Metal Workers #10
Sign, Display & Allied Workers
#880
Sprinkler Fitters #417
Teamsters #120

Sen. Clare Oumou Verbeten
2101 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Cedrick Frazier
658 Cedar Street
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55144

Dear Senator Oumou Verbeten and Representative Frazier,

On behalf of the 70,000 members of the affiliated unions of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, I write to support your bill (HF 689/SF 1909) that would expand the administrative subpoena statute to include wage theft. Your bill would give county attorneys' offices an increased ability to investigate or supplement law enforcement investigations into this pervasive practice in our industry.

As you know, wage theft in the construction industry is a widespread problem. Studies have estimated that fully one-fifth of Minnesota construction workers experience wage theft, most often by not being paid for all hours worked or for overtime hours. This practice cheats construction workers, dodges the obligation of employers to pay payroll taxes, and gives a disadvantage in competitive bidding to law abiding employers.

We have been working for years on efforts to crack down on this illegal behavior, and we welcome your bill to bring more resources to bear on the problem. Law enforcement staffing is at a critically low level right now, and allowing county attorneys' offices to issue administrative subpoenas requesting records from an employer who is the subject of a wage theft investigation is badly needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Sincerely,

Dan McConnell
Business Manager