



March 19, 2023

**Chair Klevorn, and Members of the House State & Local Government Committee
Re: BAM Opposes HF1859 (Feist) Due To Impractical New Wage Theft Requirements**

Since 1974, The Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM) has provided legislative, regulatory, and court protection for members of the Minnesota home-building industry. Our membership of nearly 1600 residential builders, remodelers, subcontractors, and industry partners are joined together through eleven local associations across Minnesota, and we are proud to be the statewide voice of the Minnesota home building industry.

While BAM supports efforts to reduce or eliminate wage theft, BAM opposes new enforcement and liability provisions in HF1859 that impractically hold contractors and project owners of construction sites liable when a subcontractor(s) is alleged to have committed wage theft. The bill specifies that a contractor entering into a construction contract assumes and is liable for any unpaid wages, fringe benefits, and resulting liquidated damages owed to a claimant or third party.

Instead, BAM supports aggressive enforcement of the robust wage theft laws passed in 2019.

We thank the committee for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Grace Keliher, Executive Vice President

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cc: Committee Administrator, Amanda Rudolph (amanda.rudolph@house.mn)