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March 12, 2023

Chairman Latz
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.,
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Minority Lead Warren Limmer
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.,
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Senators Latz and Limmer:

RE: SF 1988 Construction Worker Wage Protection Act

The Minnesota Association for Justice (MAJ) is the largest and oldest bar association dedicated to protecting the rights of the injured and accused in the state of Minnesota. MAJ's members represent injured Minnesotans in many settings including the workplace.

MAJ is writing to express our support for Senate File 1988 the Construction Worker Wage Protection Act (CWWPA) because it will better protect workers from unscrupulous contractors who may exploit them. Many of these workers are vulnerable to misclassification and need stronger protections in law.

Recent high profile news stories of labor trafficking and wage theft by bad actors completely ignoring our laws demonstrate the problem exists too frequently in Minnesota. SF 1988, particularly sections 3 and 4 of the bill, are a positive step in protecting workers by expanding the civil court remedy to hold both dishonest subcontractors and those that profit from turning a blind eye to workplace misconduct accountable.

March 12, 2023
Senators Latz and Limmer
Page Two

We applaud Senator Seeberger for moving this important protection forward and urge a 'yes' vote on SF 1988 to protect Minnesotans.

Sincerely:

Charles Slane

Chuck Slane; President

And the following attorneys representing MN Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers' Association:

/S/ Celeste Culberth, Culberth & Lienemann, LLP,
/S/ Justin Cummins; Cummins & Cummins, LLP
/S/ Phil Kitzer; Kitzer Rochel, PLLP
/S/ Sam Kramer; MacDonald Hoague & Bayless, PS
/S/ Brian Rochel; Kitzer Rochel, PLLP

cc: Senator Seeberger
Carla Ferrucci, MAJ Executive Director
Joel Carlson, MAJ Chief Lobbyist