



International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82

AFL-CIO

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House Bill No. 1158

Testimony-IN SUPPORT

Jeff Stark, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

March 13, 2023

Chairman Kannianen and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, I am Jeff Stark, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82. On behalf of the International Union of Painters and Finishing Trades (IUPAT), I am here today to offer our support for House Bill 1158, to reduce the personal income taxes of all hard-working North Dakota taxpayers.

The International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82 provides a voice for almost 3,000 workers in the finishing trades across Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Our members are trained in a variety of industry needs, including industrial and commercial painting, drywall finishing, glazing, glass work, sign installation, convention workers, silk screen paint making and embroidery.

Our support for this bill is not a union or non-union matter, it is about hard-working North Dakotans getting the tax relief they need and deserve right now. With the price of gas, food, day-care, clothes, you name it, going up right now – our members strongly believe the pinch on middle class families has reached a breaking point. By eliminating income taxes for a large portion of North Dakota taxpayers, it will put money in their family budgets right away and provide them with ongoing savings they can count on.

We wholeheartedly agree with Governor Doug Burgum when he said in his state of the state address, “Let’s show our working families in North Dakota that we understand their struggles by expediting this income tax relief legislation and making it one of the first bills to be signed this session.”

By eliminating three out of the five tax brackets, and reducing the remaining tax rate to 1.5%, North Dakota will have the lowest income tax rate of any state in the country that has an income tax. Our members, and all North Dakotans will feel that relief and have more money to put back into the state’s economy, helping to build a better future for all of us.

Like many other organizations and businesses in North Dakota, we are struggling to find more workers. The tax relief in this bill will help both labor and management equally and show that the state of North Dakota is serious about attracting new workers in this highly competitive workforce market.

Our members are looking for a commitment on tax relief from their elected representatives that is permanent and consistent. HB 1158 provides that commitment. By using the one-time funding from budget surpluses to fund permanent tax relief, you are creating a legacy of economic growth for generations to come, for our members and all North Dakotans.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, we believe this bill will provide critical relief for IUPAT members and all North Dakotans. We strongly urge your support and ask you to pass this bill as quickly as possible so Governor Burgum can sign it into law.

Thank you for your consideration.