



Senator Matt D. Klein  
Chair, Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2105  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

On behalf over 70,000 women and men who make up the affiliated unions of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, I write to encourage you to support SF 5301, Article 3, Section 1 (increasing the current Commerce Fraud Bureau (CFB) insurance company assessment) which was part of the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

This assessment, which in 2005 covered nearly 100% of the operating revenue, has fallen behind and now covers approximately 48% of the CFB operating revenue. Raising this assessment will provide the CFB with the necessary funding to investigate, charge and hold people accountable for defrauding Minnesotans and protect workers interests.

The work that the CFB does is important and critical to protecting Minnesota workers and preventing insurance fraud across the State. The CFB was the first police unit in the State to charge a contractor for criminal wage theft and workers comp evasion. Protecting workers is always of the highest importance and to fund this group at the proper level is needed to do just that.

Not only does this enforcement activity help to decrease the risk that insurance companies face, but it also protects consumers from bearing the effects of any of those associated risks faced by the insurance companies as well.

Again, thank you for bringing forward SF 3501 and thank you for including the much-needed increase to the CFB assessment which will keep the group properly funded and so they can continue to protect Minnesota workers.

Regards,

Tom Dicklich  
Executive Director