



March 19, 2025

Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

As the state's labor federation, we represent over 1,000 local unions with over 300,000 members working in the public sector, private sector, and building trades across the state. We are writing to express our support for S.F. 1909.

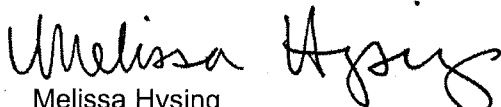
Minnesota workers who had experienced wage theft organized with unions and labor organizations for many years to document the prevalence of wage theft and find ways to address this problem in its various forms. MN AFL-CIO is proud of our work with the Coalition to End Wage Theft to advocate for the Wage Theft Prevention Act enacted in 2019. This nation-leading law empowered workers to ensure they are being paid what they are owed, granted new powers to DLI and enforcement authority to the Attorney General, increased penalties to deter violations of the law, and made wage theft a crime like any other type of theft.

More recently, MN AFL-CIO's Racial and Economic Justice Committee has partnered with the Justice for All Coalition to support expanding administrative subpoena powers to county attorneys for wage theft cases. County attorneys do not have the ability to obtain records in the same way law enforcement or civil enforcement agencies do, and this will give county attorneys a critical tool to aid their ability to prosecute these crimes.

Finally, we want to point out that worker misclassification fraud is one of the most egregious forms of wage theft since, in addition to whatever wage theft is occurring, it also denies workers all of the rights and benefits associated with employment. We would support adding language to allow county attorneys to subpoena records of payments to contractors as well as employees since in many instances of wage theft workers are misclassified as independent contractors.

Thank you for considering this important bill and we hope you will support it.

Best regards,


Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director





March 20, 2025

Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

I write to express the strong support from North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) for S.F 1909 - *County attorneys authorization to use administrative subpoenas in wage theft investigations*. We represent over 27,000 carpenters, millwrights, pile drivers, and interior systems carpenters throughout the Midwest with the highest density being right here in Minnesota.

Our organization works every day to combat wage theft. We simply will not stand by and watch unscrupulous contractors take an unfair advantage over honest contractors by not paying workers owed wages for all hours worked, not paying required overtime, taking illegal deductions or misclassifying employees. Wage theft prevention has and continues to be a top priority for NCSRCC. The legislature took action to curb some of the problems we see every day in construction by passing the wage theft law in 2019 and by passing the Construction Worker Wage Protection Act in 2022. These laws have made Minnesota a national leader in combatting wage theft. However, more needs to be done.

Our support allowing county attorneys to subpoena records of payments to contractors and employees will help complete investigations in a timelier fashion. Workers whose families rely on their income and wages can be left waiting years to receive payment for their hard work. A recent case announced on December 19, 2024, by the Department of Labor and Industry awarded workers, working on the Viking Lakes project in Eagan, \$2.4 million in back wages and liquidated damages from their employer Property Maintenance and Construction Inc. This case took years before reaching that decision.

Finally, wage theft is not going away. For too many, the financial incentives have long been worth the risk of getting caught. So, I urge you to provide county attorneys with the same subpoena authority as law enforcement. This legislation will be another tool assisting in addressing this widespread problem and result in more prosecutions of some of these offenders who continue to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from undeserving workers.

Sincerely,

Richard Kolodziejewski
Director of Government Relations
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters



March 20, 2025

Honorable Ron Latz
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3105
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of SEIU Local 26, which represents thousands of janitors, security officers, airport workers, and other essential employees across Minnesota, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate File 1909. This bill is a critical measure to combat wage theft by granting county attorneys the ability to issue administrative subpoenas in wage theft investigations.

Wage theft remains a serious issue that disproportionately affects low-wage workers, many of whom are immigrants and people of color. Too often, unscrupulous employers exploit gaps in enforcement, depriving workers of the wages they have rightfully earned. SF 1909 provides county attorneys with an essential tool to investigate and hold bad actors accountable, ensuring that all workers in Minnesota are treated fairly.

As a union dedicated to protecting workers' rights and economic justice, SEIU Local 26 urges you to support this bill and push for its swift passage. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms is a necessary step toward ensuring that every worker receives the pay they are owed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if we can provide further support.

Sincerely,

Samantha N. Diaz
Political Director
SEIU – Local 26