



## NORTH ATLANTIC STATES CARPENTERS POLITICAL TEAM

### INSTRUCTIONS

This PDF contains information on wage theft and a sample letter. Use the example below to write your own letter, print it, and then take a photo of the stamped, addressed envelope next to the letter. This photo should then be uploaded to your online scholarship application form.

[Date]

[Title] [Full Name of Legislator]

[Legislator Address at State House]

Dear [Title] [Last Name],

As a constituent and as the child of a union Carpenter, I urge you to support **[Bill Number]: An Act to ensure fairness and establish greater alignment of penalties for labor law violations.**

*Add two-three short paragraphs on why you support the Bill (please don't use the exact language).*

Wage theft and tax fraud are rampant in the construction industry, hurting hardworking families and responsible businesses. Nationwide, these abuses drain more than \$8 billion in tax revenue from state and local governments every year.

**[Bill Number]** would make it easier for workers to recover stolen wages and benefits by holding employers accountable. This legislation not only safeguards workers but also levels the playing field for honest contractors who follow the rules.

Beyond protecting workers, this bill will generate millions in new tax revenue that could be used to build new schools, repair our roads and bridges, fund public services, and help our veterans. It will also bolster our state's unemployment and workers' compensation programs, ensuring help is available for those who need it most.

**[Conclusion]** Working families in your district appreciate your leadership. Please stand with us by supporting **[Bill Number]** and defending workers across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**[Your Full Name]**

**[Your Full Address]**



## NORTH ATLANTIC STATES CARPENTERS POLITICAL TEAM

# - WAGE THEFT LEGISLATION -

### BILL NUMBER TBD

An Act to ensure fairness and establish greater alignment of penalties for labor law violations.

Wage theft is when contractors exploit workers by paying them under the table, sometimes withholding wages or failing to pay them entirely. They also avoid contributing to unemployment insurance and workers' compensation while violating worksite safety standards. These unfair practices steal billions from workers and the state, and put honest contractors at a disadvantage.

Wage Theft doesn't just affect a few people. Across all industries, more than two million workers suffer wage theft or are illegally misclassified as independent contractors. Across the nation, construction workers alone have \$946 million a year stolen from them. This hurts workers, honest contractors who can't compete, and taxpayers.

### WHAT DOES THIS LEGISLATION DO?

- **Promotes Accountability:** Prevents bad actors from withholding wages, benefits, or other compensation, ensuring workers receive what they are owed.
- **Levels the Playing Field:** Ensures fair competition by requiring all businesses to follow labor laws.
- **Faster Wage Recovery:** Establishes a clear process for recovering stolen wages through administrative or civil actions, avoiding lengthy legal battles.
- **Generates Revenue:** Brings in penalties for wage theft, ensuring enforcement even when resources are limited.
- **Protects Workers from Retaliation:** Workers can take legal action to recover unpaid wages without fear of retaliation or coercion to waive their rights.
- **Collective Bargaining Protections:** Allows unions to negotiate better protections while ensuring that existing collective bargaining agreements are not undermined.
- **Prevents Exploitation in Construction:** Construction workers, often vulnerable to wage theft due to subcontracting layers, are given more legal backing to claim their rightful earnings.