



May 2, 2025

Council President Noecker and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

On behalf of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to support a prevailing wage amendment to the City of Saint Paul's Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation unanimously adopted a resolution in support of a prevailing wage amendment. When construction workers are paid the prevailing wage, they are better able to afford rent payments. Payment of prevailing wage has also been shown to increase wage rates of workers outside the construction industry. Saint Paul families continue to struggle to afford the cost of rent, and amending the City of Saint Paul's Rent Stabilization Ordinance will benefit construction workers in the city who work on multifamily projects.

Wage theft has been documented in the multifamily construction industry in the Twin Cities according to the testimony of workers and advocates and is a significant and growing problem in Minnesota's construction industry. Researchers at the Midwest Economic Policy Institute estimated that approximately 26% of Minnesota's construction workers have been victims of wage theft.

Prevention of wage theft on multifamily construction projects is in the City of Saint Paul's interest and its residents since it protects workers from unlawful treatment, local businesses from unfair competition, and taxpayers from subsidizing the underpayment of workers through higher taxes.

We request that the City create a prevailing wage prerequisite as a condition of any exemption of multifamily residential rental properties containing twelve or more units that are newly constructed or had a change in occupancy classification after December 31, 2004, or earlier.

The payment of a prevailing wage to construction workers promotes the quality of construction and the durability of residential buildings and thereby increases the available stock of rental housing.

Please vote "Yes" in support of a prevailing wage amendment.

Sincerely,

Kera J. Peterson  
President, Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO