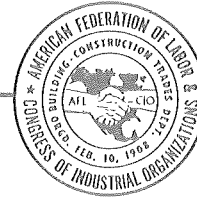


Saint Paul
Building and Construction Trades



Council

May 1, 2025

Dear Council President Noecker and Councilmembers Bowie, Jost, Privratsky, Kim, Yang and Johnson:

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Saint Paul Building Trades, I am writing to urge you to pass a prevailing wage amendment to the City of Saint Paul's Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

A prevailing wage amendment would require the payment of prevailing wages to employees of contractors and subcontractors for new construction and retrofit work on residential rental property projects of twelve or more units in order for developers to be exempted from the City's rent control ordinance.

A prevailing wage amendment would be another tool in the toolbox to counteract wage theft in the industry by ensuring family-sustaining wages, leveling the playing field for responsible contractors and minimizing misclassification through greater payroll transparency. It would be an effective policy tool to address criminal wage theft throughout the multifamily housing industry and would help ensure that workers can afford to live in the housing they build.

If you choose not to adopt a prevailing wage amendment that will mean housing developers will be able to continue benefiting from the City of Saint Paul's new construction exemption from the Rent Stabilization Ordinance without requiring the payment of living wages to the construction workers who are building and retrofitting the housing.

The City of Saint Paul has an interest in living wage jobs, safe, high-quality construction, housing affordability and ending wage theft. Allowing developers to receive an exemption from the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance while neglecting the imperative requirement for construction workers to receive a living wage disregards fairness and dignity for workers.

I urge you to deliver on your promise to us and the workers we represent and support living wages for construction workers and combat wage theft in the construction industry.

Sincerely,

Don Mullin, Executive Secretary
Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council