

Testimony from the Crew

We are the men and women who build and maintain this state.

We are the ones on the highways before sunrise, under bridges in the freezing wind, on scaffolding in the summer heat when the asphalt sticks to our boots. We pour the concrete, weld the steel, repair the roads, and keep the infrastructure standing so that everyone else can safely get to work, school, and home to their families.

We are proud of what we do.

We are proud that when storms hit, we show up.

When something collapses, we rebuild it.

When deadlines seem impossible, we work the extra hours to meet them.

Many of us log 250 or more hours of overtime every season. Not because we want to live at work — but because we have to.

Despite the long hours, despite the physical toll on our bodies, despite missing birthdays, ball games, anniversaries, and family dinners — too many of us are still living paycheck to paycheck.

Every day on the job site, the same conversations happen:

“Did you see your grocery bill this week?”

“My rent went up again.”

“I had to put the heating bill on a credit card.”

“I don’t know how I’m going to afford my kid’s braces.”

These aren’t stories from people who don’t work hard.

These are stories from people who work 50, 60, sometimes 70 hours a week.

We are not asking for luxury.

We are asking for stability.

We are asking to be able to pay our bills without panic.

To fill our gas tanks without calculating what will bounce.

To buy groceries without putting items back at the register.

To take care of our families without sacrificing our health and every waking hour of our lives.

The cost of living keeps rising — food, housing, utilities, healthcare — everything. But our wages are not keeping up. The gap between what we earn and what it takes to live grows wider every year.

The truth is this job takes a toll.

Our backs ache.

Our knees give out.

Our shoulders carry years of wear and tear.

We work through injuries because the work has to get done.

And we do it willingly — because we believe in the importance of what we build.

But dedication should not mean desperation.

Working overtime used to mean getting ahead. Now it just means keeping up. And even with 250+ overtime hours, many of us are barely staying afloat.

We are the backbone of this state's infrastructure. Without our labor, projects stop. Roads go unrepaired. Public works stall. Communities suffer. We take pride in knowing that what we build lasts for generations.

All we are asking is that our livelihoods last too.

We want to continue doing this work with pride — not with constant financial anxiety. We want to retire one day with dignity. We want our families to feel secure, not stressed every time the mail arrives.

This isn't just about numbers on a contract.

It's about people.

It's about families.

It's about fairness.

We are not disposable.

We are not asking for special treatment.

We are asking for compensation that reflects the reality of today's cost of living and the value of the work we perform every single day.

We show up.

We put in the hours.

We carry this state on our backs.

All we're asking is for the chance to stand on solid ground ourselves.