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STATEMENT OF ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MASSACHUSETTS BEFORE HOUSE CHAIR PAUL BRODEUR, SENATE CHAIR JASON M. LEWIS, AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN OPPOSITION TO S.999 AND H.1033, AN ACT TO PREVENT WAGE THEFT AND PROMOTE EMPLOYER ACCOUNTABILITY.

Good Afternoon, for the record my name is Bradley A. MacDougall, Vice President for Government Affairs at Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM).

AIM opposes S.999 and H.1033, An Act to prevent wage theft and promote employer accountability. AIM supports and believes that the current laws available to the Office of the Attorney General and other laws provide sufficient remedies. Among many other concerns, the legislation proposes to establish “vicarious liability” on every employer, state and municipal government with subcontracts.

The issues that come before this committee are both complex and foundationally important to Massachusetts’ ability to create an environment where Massachusetts is the ideal location for a company to operate, retain jobs and when possible invest and grow jobs.

Every two years, AIM surveys its members regarding the issues that matter to them. AIM’s legislative agenda and Blueprint for the Next Century capture the hundreds of conversations with business owners and managers with the goal of collecting ideas for ensuring that every community in the Bay State remains a global economic powerhouse.

Our respondents identified two key issue priorities that are relevant to this committee.

First, to encourage a uniformly strong business climate by creating a competitive economic structure across all industries, geographic regions and populations rather than picking winners and losers.

Second, to address regulations by establishing a world-class state regulatory system that ensures the health and welfare of society in a manner that meets the highest standards for efficiency, predictability, transparency and responsiveness.

AIM urges the committee to reject S.999 and H.1033, An Act to prevent wage theft and promote employer accountability because the proposal does not encourage a strong business climate nor support a world-class regulatory system.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at 617-262-1180.