

To: Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins

From: Georgina Davis-Gastelum, Kake

Date: February 15, 2018

Subject: Letter of Support for House Bill 82

Thank you for advocating on behalf of rural communities with House Bill 82. This letter is in support of HB 82, "An Act relating to vehicle registration; relating to off-highway restricted areas; and relating to motor vehicle liability insurance":

Residents living in rural communities not considered "off highway" have many obstacles to overcome in order to receive our drivers' licenses that urban residents do not face:

1. Since there is no DMV office in my community of Kake, we must travel to Juneau, Sitka, or Wrangell to take the written/road tests. Sitka DMV only administers road tests on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the ferry schedule coincides, this trip would cost at least \$100 one way + hotel + food. If the ferry schedule does not coincide, flying in a small plane would cost \$320 RT + hotel + food; if we get stormbound, which happens often, add \$150 a day for expenses + time away from work.
2. To take the road test, drivers must borrow or rent a car (if rentals are allowed), or take our own vehicle. I calculated my vehicle + driver ticket on the ferry at \$228 one way, even with senior citizen rates. With the cuts in ferry service in our communities, I would have to wait in Juneau at least 4 days to bring my car back to Kake, arrange for someone to put it on the ferry or fly back to Juneau to bring it back. Our March schedule is worse, with a 12-day wait in Juneau before I can bring my car back. As you can see, this gets very complicated.
3. If there are any young children in the family, child care is also involved, especially for single parents; getting a sitter for several days can get quite costly.
4. DMV on their website lists 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers, independent businesses who administer road tests; Kake, Angoon and Hoonah are not included in these sites.

It would be much easier and less of a financial burden if we only had to take the written test, rather than having to pay the \$700+ expense of taking the road test—especially for Kake residents, whose unemployment rate at times has exceeded 80%; or for senior citizens who are living on a fixed income. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2014, 28% of Kake's population at that time lived under the poverty threshold, nearly triple the State's poverty rate, and nearly

double the national.\* Many of our residents just cannot afford the cost of traveling to the city to take the driver's test.

Some rural drivers only wish to drive in the village, myself included. I am 65 years old, and only wish to drive in my village of Kake—the only place I have ever driven. I have spoken with others who only would like to drive in Kake, and do not even consider driving in the city. When I am in Juneau, I would rather take a bus or a cab than drive; or if I am with my husband, he does the driving.

As a lifelong resident of the State of Alaska, I urge you to pass HB 82, and once again include Kake, Angoon and Hoonah as locations authorized for Off Highway Drivers' Licenses. Thank you for your consideration.

*Georgina Davis-Gastelum*

\*Bennett, Lindsey, Impact of Unemployment in Kake, Alaska: Community Assessment, August 2015

## Letter of Support from Angie Larsen, Hoonah

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**From:** angie Larsen <[angie\\_larsen2001@yahoo.com](mailto:angie_larsen2001@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2015 3:06 PM  
**To:** Berett Wilber  
**Subject:** Re: New messages from Anjeanette Larsen Voeller

The off system license is much needed for communities as Hoonah..  
Some have anxiety attacks driving in cities etc  
Such as myself, I cannot drive over 30 :( I have tried..  
When going over 30 my heart pounds, clench wheel etc..  
But my need for the off system is great, with that I can sustain a early morning or late night job.  
And to be able to be self sufficient I need to work..  
My two jobs in the past either started at 4am or ended at 11pm, and with either walking during  
bear season wasn't a option. Cabs 5\$ a trip adds up also..  
Plus some need it for transportation, meaning that I at the moment have my grand daughter and  
need to get her to and from school.she is in kindergarten . Sometimes transportation is just more  
convenient for that especially if running late.. Also loosing my dad in January I now need to be able  
to help my mom go to store etc, as my dad was the driver for them..  
There is also gathering of food, having off system would allow myself and my family go out berry  
picking, hunting etc..  
I would love to have the option to work late nights again, as two jobs would help me so financially..  
And as a licensed driver, my stickers, license, insurance was always kept up.  
Another thing is that in order to even get license, we have to travel out of town, possibly take own  
vehicle or find one, as I have heard that you cannot use a rental, but in any case it would cost a few  
hundred, travel, hotel vehicle etc and some just cannot afford that.. Being seasonal, or one income  
household, such as myself..

Thank you so much for your time  
Anjeanette larsen

# CITY OF ANGOON

PO. BOX 189 • ANGOON, ALASKA 99820 • (907) 788-3653 • FAX (907) 788-3821

City of Angoon  
Albert Kookesh III  
700 Aan Deina At St.  
Angoon, AK. 99820  
January 26, 2015

Representative Kreiss-Tomkins  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 426  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

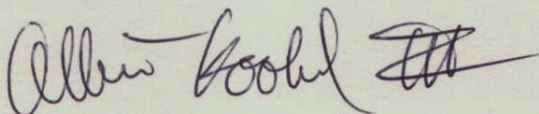
I am writing on behalf of the City of Angoon in support of HB-62 Off-Highway Driver's Licenses. The City of Angoon, which is located on Admiralty Island, has a population of 459 residents with less than 10 miles of road all together.

The City of Angoon greatly supports HB-62 because we have no DMV office in town and the only way to get to a DMV is to travel to either Juneau or Sitka, which adds a financial strain on many residents. The cost of traveling to Juneau or Sitka is quite expensive and even then, Sitka is only accessible during the summer ferry schedule. We agree with HB-62 Sponsor Statement:

"Instead, these residents face prohibitive conditions to receive licenses: they must travel to and stay in communities with DMV offices; borrow or rent vehicles; and schedule and take road tests on unfamiliar roads or highways before they can be legally allowed to drive at home."

We at the City of Angoon Support HB-62 and feel that its residents should be legally allowed to drive in the City they have grown up in with only an off-highway license. We understand that this license would only pertain to Angoon and we accept that in order to drive outside of Angoon we would need a Class-D License.

Sincerely,



City of Angoon  
Albert Kookesh III  
[Title]



## City of Kake

"HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOTEM POLE"

P.O. BOX 500  
KAKE, AK 99830  
PHONE: (907) 785-3804  
FAX: (907) 785-4815

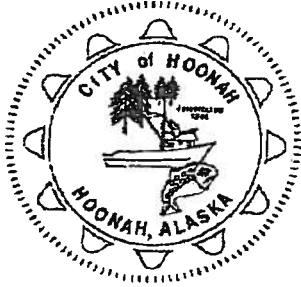
January 26, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express support of HB 62. Under HB 62, the State would allow residents in rural communities, such as Kake, who have no road access to DMV offices, to qualify for off-highway licenses, saving them the time and expense of traveling to DMV offices for services other Alaskans can get at home.

Respectfully,

  
William Bean Jr.  
City Administrator



City of Hoonah

P.O. Box 360 Hoonah, AK 99829 (907) 945-3663 Fax (907) 945-3445

January 26, 2015

Honorable Members of  
The State of Alaska Legislature.

Dear Alaska State Legislators:

In regards to House Bill number 62, Off-Highway Driver's Licenses, establishing eligibility criteria for off-highway (non-commercial driver's licenses).

We feel that this bill should be passed. As a rural community it is difficult for our residents to access a DMV office to complete the requirements established to obtain a Driver's License. To do so is sometimes cost-prohibitive to the families involved; due to travel costs and a stay in a city that does have a DMV office. At this time the criteria that allows eligibility is set for communities with a populations less than 499. Our population is at approximately 850. To further extend the eligibility to communities that do not have access by road to the State's DMV offices is a favorable change for our community and it's residents.

It is our feeling that the action that should be taken on House Bill number 62 is a Do-Pass.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Skaflestad

Mayor

City of Hoonah



January 26, 2015

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
State Capitol, Room 426  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 62 – Off-Highway Drivers' Licenses

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins;

Southeast Conference supports HB62 – Off Highway Drivers' Licenses. This bill would clarify eligibility requirements for off-highway driver's licenses, making them available to people in towns like Kake and Hoonah and Angoon. This means that folks in rural areas wouldn't have to travel to larger cities with DMV offices to get driver's licenses on unfamiliar roads.

Southeast Conference is a regional, membership based nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Members include municipalities, native corporations and village councils, regional and local businesses, civic organizations and individuals throughout the region. Our goal is to support policies that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment for Southeast Alaska. We are the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska. Each of these designations requires Southeast Conference to take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning.

With this legislation our members would have better access to a legal driver's license. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I encourage support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wright  
Executive Director

