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February 7, 2012

The Honorable Les Gara
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 500
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: State Farm Support for HB 255

Dear Representative Gara:

State Farm, the largest insurer of autos in Alaska, strongly supports HB 255, which prohibits drivers from reading or typing a text message or other non-voice message on cell phones, computers or personal data assistants. The bill clarifies this conduct is illegal in Alaska and provides for stiff penalties as a deterrent. Statistics establish without a doubt this bill will immediately begin to reduce accidents, reduce property damage, help to keep insurance costs down and most importantly save lives.

Please include this letter of support in your bill file and in all committee hearings. If we can provide you any further information or assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Sheldon E. Winters

Lobbyist for State Farm Insurance Companies

SEW/lg

Gara 2-7-12 letter of support.wpd