

My name is Phil Kromm.

I am a 15 year line haul driver from Fairbanks with Carlile Transportation. We have 650 employees with families. I also work in safety, recruitment, training and driver retention. My home is in Fairbanks along with my wife, a 6 and 3 yr old sons.

When I am driving my 18 wheeler it is usually on the Haul Road taking goods to the slope. We are a carrier that moves all types of goods. I love my job and am excited to have the opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts and concerns about the situation Alaska, our local companies and people are in right now.

I have firsthand knowledge of the work slow down on the North Slope and the effects it has on us all. The volume of business that was there a few years ago has declined, significantly.

It is obvious there is less pipe going up the road. Specifically less drill stem which is used for exploration. There is also a considerable reduction in loads of construction supplies. When I say construction supplies I am talking about everything from lumber provided by Spenard Builders Supply to heavy equipment from Construction Machinery. These items are just not moving – and it is not just Carlile that is feeling the pain, it is all of the oil and gas providers and contractors. And if you think just because you work for a non oil and gas provider you are not feeling the pain – that is simply not true. When my paycheck isn't as large as it was, something has to give. That is probably going to be less trips to the local

coffee stand or dinner out with my family. If you are in Alaska, you are feeling the pain.

Here is another example; Carlile hires about 30 additional people in Prudhoe over the winter, just to move stuff around between the fields on the slope. The last couple of years – no additional folks hired for the slope. The work just isn't there – that is 30 families without a job, just at Carlile alone. That is a significant loss when you start adding it up.

The guys and gals that do still have a job are just scraping by as over- time is almost nonexistent. The work that was there in the past isn't available. Drivers are looking for loads to make a paycheck. We have personally seen drivers that can't stay busy enough here and have left for work in other places. Right now, the Dakotas are a big draw for drivers. It's less expensive to live there, the jobs pay well and they can stay busy. Alaska is losing jobs and good employees, because business is declining!

Conversations on the road are less about planning a vacation and enjoying their free time and are more about higher cost of living accompanied with how to make ends meet accompanied with talk about fewer loads, less traffic, less drivers, less money and most of all, a nervous sense about the future of our state. Alaska need to be competitive in-order to keep our workforce here, create opportunities for jobs and keep investment circulating here at home. My fellow drivers and I want to stay busy, we want to haul drill pipe, we look forward to the ice roads season and it's exciting to see a new man camp being moved up to the Slope – not moved off the slope to take to North Dakota. With your help and cooperation development and stable investment climate can happen.

Please do it – for Alaska.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from me on this important issue.