

Legislative Testimony House Bill 15

By Michael Moeller, Director of Trucking, CPD Alaska, LLC.

Madam Chair, members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Mike Moeller; I am Director of Trucking for CPD Alaska, LLC. The petroleum distribution division of Crowley Alaska. We operate across the state delivering petroleum products to customers both on the road system and throughout rural Western Alaska.

I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 15 sponsored by Representatives Keller and Isaccson and co-sponsored by members of this committee including, of course, you Representative Wilson.

As you are all aware, this legislation would update the statutory description of a commercial vehicle , taking into account that modern vehicles are built cleaner and with greater safety considerations for the user than was the case when the original requirements for training and reporting were put into place. Specifically, this legislation changes the definition of a commercial vehicle from one weighing 10,001 or more pounds to a vehicle weighing 14,0001 pounds or greater.

I have included examples of each from our fleet. Under the amended regulation we would no longer be required to have personnel who drive the F350 variety trucks, containing no hazardous materials, certified by the DOT. No doubt you have all seen this type of truck on the highway, it's just a heavy duty pickup truck.

Much like the small businesses who are affected by these regulations, in order to meet the DOT requirements we must transport staff from the far reaches of the state into Anchorage for physicals that are otherwise unnecessary. We also must provide additional equipment and man power to initiate and maintain records for Driver Qualification files for staff that do not deliver petroleum products or drive commercial vehicles in the normal course of their day to day operations.

These transportation and personnel costs weigh heavily into what it costs to run our business in rural parts of the state and those costs, as in any business, are inevitably passed onto to the customer. In areas such as McGrath where Home Heating Fuel has a base cost of \$7.26/ gallon or in Iliamna where it costs \$7.58/gallon our customers would clearly benefit, particularly in the coldest months of the year.

In addition to the onerous requirements placed on organizations such as ours, the regulations as currently written place added strain on the Alaska Commercial Motor Vehicle enforcement resources, which I'm sure we can all agree would be better spent on commercial grade vehicles and licensing than on large pickup trucks which could easily be owned and operated by non-commercially licensed individuals with valid driver's licenses.

On behalf of Crowley, or customers, and staff across the state, I greatly appreciate your consideration and continued support of House Bill 15 this legislation. Thank you for your time.