

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

House Transportation Committee

1:00 pm, February 24, 2015

Aves D. Thompson, Executive Director

Alaska Trucking Association

Thank you. Co-Chair's Foster and Hughes and members of the committee, I am Aves Thompson, Executive Director of the Alaska Trucking Association. The Alaska Trucking Association is a state wide organization representing the interests of our nearly 200 member companies from Barrow to Ketchikan. Freight movement represents a large chunk of our economy and impacts all of us each and every day. The simple truth is that "if you got it, a truck brought it."

HB91 provides, generally, that on multi-lane highways, vehicles stay out of the left lane except to pass. As a general rule, this seems to accomplish the purpose of keeping slower moving vehicles out of the way of those vehicle that want to travel faster. In discussing this with my counter parts in 12 western states, half have a similar law and the other half have no similar legislation. Those with the law state that it has not been a problem for the trucking industry. A couple stated that



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the law works well away from urban congested areas but in those urban congested areas, the law is pretty much unenforceable because there are so many vehicles. One of our members commented that sometimes, at night, it is good to be in a lane other than the far right lane so as to have a better chance to see wildlife crossing the highway to be able to take evasive action.

The sense of the ATA membership seems to be that while we don't want to be viewed as encouraging speeding or other unsafe acts, we have no objection to HB91. We would expect that enforcement actions would be taken rarely and only in the most egregious situations. There currently is a law that requires slow moving vehicles to move over when five or more vehicles build up behind them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this bill.



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