GENERAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer
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February 23, 2017

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair – House State Affairs
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux
Vice – Chair House State Affairs

RE: HB 74 – Driver's License and ID Cards and REAL ID Act

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

Teamsters Local 959 represent workers in almost every industry in our state. Those include mining, health care, oil/gas industry, telecommunication, school bus drivers, freight, railroad, to list a few. We want to go on record in support of HB 74 which would implement the REAL ID Act.

Currently, many of our members are required to go through extensive background checks. At the Port, we have drivers, office staff, maintenance, hostlers and longshore members who are required to possess a federal ID called a TWIC card which requires the same number, if not more, security checks as a passport. We have members required to possess a hazmat endorsement for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) which requires a background check. As such, our members understand the importance of screening and security protections needed to protect the public.

Our members haul fuel, deliver goods, and provide services on the military bases, including school bus drivers, UPS drivers, freight truck drivers, and construction. Without a compliant ID after June 6, 2017, many of our members will not be able to provide those important services as required by their jobs.

Passage of HB 74 will allow the DMV to offer all Alaskans a choice between a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification or a "standard" noncompliant license or identification. It will put in place a smooth transition under the federally recognized Real ID Act and assure our members work opportunities are not jeopardized, which would negatively impact many of the public as well.

On behalf of our members we urge your support and, ultimate passage, of this legislation.

Sincerely,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959

Rick Boyles
Secretary-Treasurer

Copy: Representatives Tuck, Wool, Birch, D. Johnson, G. Knopp

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