

Senator Mia Costello
State Capitol Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 56

Senator Costello:

Please support Senate Bill 56. This bill fixes a problem I see all the time at my job. I work for a heavy equipment dealer in Juneau, Alaska and have worked for heavy equipment dealers in the lower 48 throughout my career. Every week I see situations up here where a customer needs a part for warranty work or a product update but doesn't have the time to wait for a 4 week stock order to get free freight. This forces the customer to pay for both the part (because the manufactures won't pay for the part unless the dealer mechanic installs the part) and the freight in order to get the equipment fixed.

In the lower 48 the customers would wait for the part because stock orders only take a week and the construction season was 10+ months long. They would then also wait for the mechanic because even though they had to pay for the mechanics travel the cost of a mechanic driving an hour or 2, it wasn't that much compared to the cost of a mechanic flying to a location in Alaska (warranties and updates don't currently cover travel).

I really want you to remember 2 things about this bill:

1. This is for warranties and product updates, in other words when the equipment part failed too early or when the manufacturer decided they created a defect that needs correcting.
2. This bill helps the smaller local contractors and forces the manufacturers to stand behind their product by covering the costs associated with their warranties and defective parts.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa DeGroat', written in a cursive style.

Melissa DeGroat

Juneau, Alaska