

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

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www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

March 9, 2017

HCR7 Oppose Alternative G – Support Juneau Creek Alternative

Sterling Highway Project MP 45-60

House Transportation Committee

Thank you Co-Chairs Wool and Stutes. I am Aves Thompson, Executive Director of the Alaska Trucking Association, a nearly 200 member company trade association representing the interests of the trucking industry in Alaska.

On behalf of the Alaska Trucking Association, I am here today to support this resolution.

The Sterling Highway is the only land freight corridor to and from the Kenai Peninsula communities of Kenai, Soldotna, Anchor Point, Homer and other west side communities. The Sterling Highway supports freight movement for commercial activities such as fishing, oil and gas production, construction, refinery operations and the consumer goods needed by all the residents of the west side of the Peninsula.



If you got it, a truck brought it...

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The Kenai Peninsula also is one of the most popular tourist areas in the world drawing tourists from near and far. In the summer, the Sterling Highway in the Cooper Landing area is crowded with tourists and fishers.

We oppose the G Alternative because it keeps the highway too close to the Kenai River. Our opposition is based on two major safety concerns:

1. Thousands of tourists are in the Cooper Landing area every day in the summer. Their attention is directed toward fishing, hiking or boating and not necessarily watching for truck traffic. Mixing commercial vehicle traffic and tourists on the roadway creates a potential conflict that can be avoided by choosing the Juneau Creek Alternative.
2. Some of the freight that is moved on this route is fuel in tankers. In the event of a crash or spill, the effects of an environmental incident can be greatly lessened by choosing the Juneau Creek Alternative and moving the highway away from the Kenai River.

Again, ATA supports this resolution and fully supports the Juneau Creek Alternative.

Thank you for your attention.

Aves Thompson
Executive Director



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