

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Angoon · Coffman Cove · Craig · Edna Bay · Elfin Cove · Game Creek · Hollis · Hoonah · Kake · Kasaan · Klawock · Kupreanof · Naukati
Pelican · Petersburg · Point Baker · Port Alexander · Port Protection · Sitka · Tenakee Springs · Thorne Bay · Whale Pass

HB 82 Testimonials

I am all in favor of getting off system driver's license for our community. Most community members do not leave town but maybe once or twice a year. It is also very expensive to go to Juneau to get a driver's license. Please let us get an off system license for our town. I'm writing from Hoonah.

Thank you.

— Jolene Koenig

March 13, 2017

As a Hoonah resident I support off road licenses and I am guessing that most other residents would agree. "Off-road" pretty much defines what this community; is about.

— James Erickson

Hoonah, AK 99829

March 11, 2017

This is in support of HB 82:

Rural communities not considered "off highway" have many obstacles to overcome in order to receive our driver's licenses:

1. We must travel to Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell or Petersburg to take the written/road tests. Sitka only administers road tests on Tuesdays. If the ferry schedule coincides, we would pay at least \$100 one way + hotel + food. If the ferry schedule does not coincide, flying in a small plane will run at least \$300 RT + hotel + food. If we get stormbound, add \$150 a day for expenses + time away from work.
 2. To take the road test, drivers must borrow or rent a car, or take our own vehicle. I calculated my vehicle + driver ticket on the ferry at \$240.
 3. DMV on their website lists 3rd party testers, independent businesses who administer road tests. Kake, Angoon and Hoonah are not included in these sites--only Juneau.
- Some rural drivers only wish to drive in the village, myself included. I am 64 years old, and only

wish to drive in my village of Kake. It would be much easier and less of a financial burden if we only had to take the written test, rather than having to pay the \$700+ expense of having to take the road test. I urge you to once again include Kake, Angoon and Hoonah as locations authorized for Off Highway Drivers' Licenses. Thank you.

— Georgina Davis-Gastelum

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March 14, 2017

I was thankful to have attended the hearings last week with a few Hoonah Students. I strongly support off road licenses for our rural communities. I think the voice of Our Rural Communities should be known. We have miles and miles of roads, our families rely on subsistence and wood stoves, we need to work with our community to be able to safely access our surroundings areas. We need to help our youth feel comfortable and able to work towards Regular Licensing, the cost associated with going to Juneau to take the tests are far more than those on the road system incur. Ferry tickets, housing, vehicle costs, etc. Rural communities should have the support and ability to provide off road licensing to residents to ensure we are keeping safety our number one concern. Let's give them the tools they need to be successful.

Gunalchéesh Tlein,

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March 11, 2017

I'm in favor of off road licenses in rural subsistence communities. Angoon is a very traditional native subsistence village. The residents of this town, including myself, engage in a wide variety of subsistence activities all throughout the year. As a licensed driver, I can tell you, it's a lot easier to subsist with a vehicle. There are residents that have no need, and I'm sure no desire to go driving in the city. If they did, they could simply go and get a driver's license. The benefits of an off road license provision in rural communities would be to set up a lower requirement, limited form of a license that would allow them to at least drive in their "off road" communities only, so they could get around to do things like driving to harvest berries, or launching their boats, or driving to the

distant trail to the cockle beach, or anything else subsistence related. That's why subsistence communities should be allowed off road licensing... In my opinion anyway.

— Joshua Bowen Sr.

Angoon

March 10, 2017

I need an off road license. I don't drive in a city and I doubt that Angoon will be getting a major highway anytime soon. We don't even have paved roads.... I doubt if there is any place to parallel park....

— Doreen Gamble-Williams

Angoon

March 10, 2017