

## **Comment Letter on House Bill 166 to House Transportation Committee**

April 16, 2021

Representative Hopkins, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
Alaska State Capital

Dear Chair Hopkins, and members of the House Transportation Committee:

We urge you to oppose HB 166, An Act relating to the issuance of vehicle registration plates.

Motor vehicles are used in 70 percent of all serious crimes. Front and rear fully reflective license plates are essential in the quick and accurate identification of motor vehicles, even at highway speeds. In order to enforce and properly identify criminals, law enforcement uses automated license plate readers to apprehend individuals involved in crimes. Many of these crimes include stolen vehicles, outstanding warrants, and amber alerts. Anchorage is in the Top 5 of cities with the highest vehicle theft per capita, the front plate is critical to finding stolen vehicles.

The front license plate enhances visibility during the night. Seeing a vehicle more quickly allows drivers to better react in the case of stalled or crashed vehicles, helping to decrease the chance for an accident. The front plate also helps to solve crimes when a camera records video that includes a front plate. The chances of an eyewitness seeing a license plate number in a hit and run are improved greatly.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as with virtually all other highway safety and law enforcement organizations have long supported front and rear license plates for vehicle registration compliance, officer safety and traffic enforcement purposes.

Many after-market, no-drill front-plate brackets are readily available online and at retailers.

3M urges members of this committee to swiftly oppose passage of HB 166. We kindly request that this message be entered into the record. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ibarra



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