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Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

The Honorable Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau AK, 99801

March 8, 2021

RE: SB 76 Abandoned Vehicles

Dear Senator Kiehl,

Thank you for introducing SB 76, "An Act relating to vehicles abandoned on private property." Alaska's members have communicated an interest in support of this bill, inasmuch as local governments are supportive of legislation that strengthens their ability to address local challenges. Abandoned vehicles plague local governments. In addition to life, health and safety issues, they drain the capacity of local government employees, who spend time managing complaints and processes that delay action.

Below are some examples from AML members:

- 1) In my community there was a permitted junk yard/wrecking yard. Unfortunately, the owners sold out to a group in Fairbanks and it then operated only seasonally with absentee owners. During the "off-season" people would sneak in through the back of the property and dump any and all vehicles they no longer wanted, without appropriate transfer of title. The City started nuisance enforcement action against the owners for a number of reasons. They had to take responsibility for everything on their property – even vehicles dumped illegally. Had SB76 been in place, the junk yard owners would only have to wait 30 days to notice and apply for title to have legal rights to dispose of the vehicles dragged in without permission.
- 2) In my role at the city, we would begin nuisance abatement proceedings against small commercial or residential lot owners for "junk" vehicle storage. I always heard, "Well, my buddy just left it here. I don't have title. He's coming back to work on it." SB76 would mean no more excuses for a property owner to avoid cleaning up a lot for months because of a title transfer issue when their buddy is nowhere to be found. Thirty days and you notice and apply for title. Then they have to clean up.
- 3) The shortened time would be advantageous to municipalities and private property owners. Currently, when a vehicle is abandoned on private property, the process to remove the vehicle is time consuming. The private property owner either has to leave it there for 6 months or pay to have it towed and secured in another location for 6 months until it can be declared "abandoned." Abandoned cars are not only an eyesore, they also tend to "collect" other abandoned cars – they often get stripped by people who are looking to make a quick buck. If the time frame can be shortened it gives law enforcement officials and private property owners the ability to deal with the problem before it escalates.

Senator, we appreciate any help to strengthen the tools with which local governments and property owners have available to address this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nils Andreassen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director



JEDC.org
612 West Willoughby Ave. Suite A
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone 907-523-2300
Fax 907-463-3929

The Honorable Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau, AK 99801

March 8, 2021

RE: SB 76 Abandoned Vehicles

Dear Senator Kiehl,

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations, the council implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create economic opportunities that help make Juneau a great capital city; strengthen key regional industry; promote entrepreneurship and small business; develop talent; and deliver core economic development services.

Thank you for introducing SB 76, "An Act relating to vehicles abandoned on private property." Presently, under current state law, the period of time before a vehicle left on private property can be considered abandoned is six months, which is far too long. The private property owner either has to leave the abandoned car on their property for six months or pay to have it towed and secured in another location for six months until it can be declared "abandoned."

JEDC has organized meetings with Mendenhall Mall and Vintage Park business leaders for the past two years. These meetings have included concerned business owners, property owners and law enforcement officials. During these meetings, one of the major topics brought up and discussed was that six months is too long to have to leave an abandoned vehicle on their property.

JEDC does not believe the six-month time frame is an appropriate length of time for a business owner to have to leave an eyesore of an abandoned car on their property, taking up valuable space. Their only other option is to have to pay to have the vehicle stored for six months, which also seems like an unreasonable burden for business and property owners.

For these reasons, JEDC supports the bill to reduce the required time frame from six months to 45 days. Thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Holst", is written over a circular stamp that contains the text "JEDC".

Brian Holst

Executive Director



February 11, 2021

RE: Senate Bill 76 – Support

Senator Jesse Kiehl
State Capitol
Room 419
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kiehl:

Copart appreciates the opportunity to offer our comments on Alaska Senate Bill 76. Copart is a global leader in the salvage and auto auction industry and offers a range of services for processing vehicles and selling them over the internet through our online auction technology platform. Copart has a location in Anchorage and is proud to be a member of the Alaska business community.

We support this bill because we believe it will bring efficiency for the rare occasions when vehicles are abandoned and then are refused to be picked up by the vehicle owner. Abandonments impact Copart because we have vehicles assigned to our facility and occasionally the owner refuses to provide the title or even assist in any way to retrieve their vehicle.

While this does not happen with great frequency, when it does, we are currently required to store this vehicle for six months before processing. This inventory is on expensive land and utilizes hard to acquire real estate that essentially takes that portion of the property out of productive use for an extended time frame.



This bill reduces the number of days to be reduced from six months to 30 days. It brings a reduced storage requirement which is similar to many other states while still protecting consumers with ample time to acquire their vehicles that they have abandoned at our yards.

We ask for legislator support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments and an explanation for our position. If you need additional information, do not hesitate to reach out to me and I will be glad to assist and answer any questions you may need addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Binder", written in a cursive style.

Mark Binder

Director of Government Affairs

Mark.Binder@Copart.com

214-534-6546

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 76 Abandoned Vehicles

Dear Senator Kiehl,

My thanks for your introduction of Senate Bill 76, "An Act relating to vehicles abandoned on private property". Presently, under current state law, the period of time before a vehicle left on private property can be considered abandoned is six months, which is far too long. My comments in support of reducing that timeframe come to you from two perspectives, one from the Credit Union as a property owner and the other as a lienholder.

True North FCU has a branch and administrative facility in the Vintage Park area of Mendenhall Valley in Juneau. It is a sizable lot with parking that is adequate for our needs at present, but we do not have extra space. While happily not a frequent occurrence, we do periodically get vehicles left on our lot on which we are not lienholder. When that happens, we not only get the pleasure of paying to dispose of the property, but it impacts our usage of the lot and potentially the appearance of the lot in the interim. Additionally, one abandoned vehicle can be invitation to others. I understand and agree that the property rights of the vehicle owner must be protected, but a six months waiting period does not strike the appropriate balance between their rights and ours. I believe 30 days is a far more reasonable waiting period.

Further, as a lienholder, I would very much like to know that a vehicle collateralizing a loan with the Credit Union has been abandoned on someone else's private property! If they have to wait six months before providing notice so that we can retrieve our collateral, the value of the abandoned collateral will decline, either through natural decline or damage, and the loss experienced by the Credit Union will increase. In such a scenario, the likelihood that we will recoup that loss is generally slim.

For these reasons, we support the bill to reduce the required time frame from six months to 30 days. Again, my thanks for your efforts of this issue, and for the consideration of your fellow Legislators.

Sincerely,



Lauren MacVay
President/CEO
True North Federal Credit Union

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:
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From: Kenn Darling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Cathy Schlingheyde <Cathy.Schlingheyde@akleg.gov>
Subject: FW: 11th hour Abandoned vehicle hearing

Greetings,

Today we became aware of the attached bill SB 76, and a hearing scheduled for tomorrow.

At Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, we support SB 76 and the reduction in time needed to claim a vehicle as abandoned to 30 days.

Sincerely,

Kenn D. Darling | Chief Credit Officer
Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union

1020 S. Bailey, Palmer Alaska 99645

Dir: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

