

# Senator Robert Myers

## *Alaska State Legislature*

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## **SB 150 - Sponsor Statement**

### **Truck Driver Appreciation Day**

**"An Act establishing the second Monday of September of each year as Truck Driver Appreciation Day."**

The continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have illustrated a number of breakdowns in our global economy and distribution systems. The recent struggles with the global and state supply chain have led to growing attention for the unsung backbone of our modern economy: truck drivers. Almost every industry in the world requires trucking to keep running. Most notably, nearly every industry that sells physical goods needs truck drivers to transport those goods.

Unfortunately, despite their critical role in our economy, truck drivers have been in short supply with their ranks ravaged by retirements and resignations as individuals move to less stressful occupations. Truck drivers often face various occupational challenges such as irregular hours, long stints away from home, and in Alaska hazardous road conditions. Even as the pandemic slowed many industries and occupations truck drivers remained hard at work. That is why it is an important time for Alaska to pay respect and thank the hundreds of professional truck drivers in our state for their hard work and commitment in undertaking one of our economy's most demanding and important jobs.

SB 150 establishes the second Monday of September of each year as Truck Driver Appreciation Day in alignment with the National Truck Driver Appreciation week. The goal of this bill is to codify Alaska's unique respect for the truck driving industry and provided appreciation for those who work vigilantly to keep our shelves stocked.

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