



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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February 18, 2012

Representative Wes Keller
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 271

Dear Representative Keller: *Wes*

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, a construction trade association of over 650 business members, representing the majority of the construction industry in Alaska, thank you for sponsoring HB 271.

This proposed legislation would increase the weight threshold of commercial vehicle regulation and registration from the current 10,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) to 14,000 pounds GVWR for inspection and safety regulation purposes. Pick-up trucks and small service vans are getting larger and heavier and are going over the current 10,000 GVWR and becoming a commercial vehicle by definition. When light trucks and service vans go over the 10,000 pound GVWR threshold, they become subject to a series of Federal regulations that have been adopted into the Alaska Administrative Code.

While these smaller vehicles have become larger and heavier over the past few years, industry advancements are also making them much safer than their lighter, smaller and older counterparts. These vehicles do not need the level of scrutiny of conventional "commercial vehicles" as typically they are operating in a limited geographical area and are not subject to the wear and tear that other larger commercial vehicles experience. This bill would help remove an unnecessary burden for small business owners and contractors.

Thank you for your sponsorship and support of HB 271.

Sincerely,

John MacKinnon
Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska