



11312 Kenai Spur Hwy #45  
Kenai, AK 99611  
(907) 335-3333  
[www.alaskaCDL.com](http://www.alaskaCDL.com)

Monday, March 9, 2026

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267 -  
Employer Contributions for Workforce Training Programs**

Dear Senator Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267. This legislation represents a practical and timely investment in Alaska's workforce training system.

As a workforce training provider, Kenai Peninsula Driving Instruction LLC has relied on State Training and Employment Program (STEP) grant funding for a decade to provide industry training in commercial driver training programs. Commercial drivers are in high demand and many careers, including apprenticeship programs, require a commercial driver's license. STEP dollars go directly into training Alaskans for real jobs that employers need filled now.

Demand for workforce training across the state continues to exceed available funding. The Alaska Workforce Investment Board has seen nearly double the number of STEP requests compared to available grant funds. At the same time, training costs have increased, making existing resources stretch further each year. The current funding structure simply does not meet statewide demand.

SB 217 and HB 267 strengthen the long-term sustainability of workforce training by increasing available STEP funding when the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is solvent. This approach supports businesses, reduces future unemployment claims, and helps more Alaskans gain the skills needed

to fill high-demand jobs, including positions currently filled by nonresident workers.

This legislation is a high-return investment in Alaska's workforce and economy. We respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Douthit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Alexander Douthit  
Owner/Operator  
Kenai Peninsula Driving Instruction LLC