

**Date:** March 23, 2026 10:12 AM AKDT  
**From:** "Sen. Cathy Tilton"  
**To:** Senate Transportation Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB239

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FYI.

Sen. Cathy Tilton

Senate District M (House Districts 25 & 26)

907.465.2199 – Juneau office

907.373.6298 – Wasilla office

<https://www.facebook.com/Sen.TiltonDistrictM> <<https://www.facebook.com/Sen.TiltonDistrictM>>

From: Mequilla Baker <mequilla.baker@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2026 9:40 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Tilton <Sen.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB239

Hello, my name is Mequilla Baker, and I live in your district.

I am writing to ask you to please support and pass SB239, which has a hearing this Wednesday in the transportation committee, as it would be very beneficial for many people in Alaska.

I'm not sure if you are aware of this, but cars from other countries not sold new in America must be 25 years old to be exempt from NHSTA laws in America. Once a car is 25 years old, it can be imported, driven, and used in America. This is the case in every other state.

But in 2006 the state passed some bills relating to the titling of cars, at the time the DMV put in their rules that cars manufactured before 1981 were exempt and legal in Alaska (25 years at that time) but they did not make it a rolling 25 year exemption, this was unknown and unenforced until last year, even though thousands of cars that meet this criteria were titled here for years, the DMV suddenly decided to stop issuing titles, registrations or renewals for these vehicles. SB239 merely adopts a rolling 25-year exemption matching federal law and conforming to the laws of every other state except California.

Please help get this passed and turned into law! We all love that Alaska has always been a stronghold of "free states", and this is nothing more than an overreach! Besides this, Alaska has some of the most relaxed automotive laws in the country, such as no emissions testing and permanent tags, all things that almost all of us think are great!

Thank you so much for your time.

Mequilla Baker

**Date:** March 23, 2026 11:06 AM AKDT

**From:** ". ."

**To:** Senate.transportation@akleg.gov

**Subject:** Sb 239

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I am writing to support SB 239 and encourage its advancement through the Senate Transportation Committee.

Right now, Alaska residents who legally import JDM vehicles under the federal 25-year rule are facing unnecessary barriers when trying to title and register them. Despite these vehicles being federally compliant and widely accepted in other states, Alaska's current process leaves too much room for inconsistent interpretation, resulting in denied registrations and stranded investments.

SB 239 offers a straightforward fix by bringing state policy in line with federal law and establishing a clear, predictable process for titling these vehicles. This bill protects consumers, reduces confusion at the DMV level, and ensures that Alaskans are treated fairly when it comes to legally owned property.

This is a common-sense change that supports both individual rights and administrative consistency. I strongly urge you to support SB 239 and help move it forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Mark Gaceta

**Date:** March 23, 2026 11:10 AM AKDT  
**From:** Mark Gaceta  
**To:** Senate.transportation@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** SB 239

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I am writing to support SB 239 and encourage its advancement through the Senate Transportation Committee.

Right now, Alaska residents who legally import JDM vehicles under the federal 25-year rule are facing unnecessary barriers when trying to title and register them. Despite these vehicles being federally compliant and widely accepted in other states, Alaska's current process leaves too much room for inconsistent interpretation, resulting in denied registrations and stranded investments.

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This is a common-sense change that supports both individual rights and administrative consistency. I strongly urge you to support SB 239 and help move it forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Mark Gaceta

**Date:** March 23, 2026 02:13 PM AKDT  
**From:** "Sen. Cathy Tilton"  
**To:** Senate Transportation Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB239

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Sen. Cathy Tilton

Senate District M (House Districts 25 & 26)

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From: Mark Tuovinen <[mark@bhhsalaska.com](mailto:mark@bhhsalaska.com)>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 1:29 PM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>

Subject: SB239

Hello,

My name is Mark Tuovinen and I am writing to ask for your support to help pass SB239/HB303, which corrects an oversight in Alaska motor vehicle title legislation. The Transportation Committee will hear SB239 on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

In 2006, the Alaska legislature passed legislation relating to the titling of motor vehicles intended to align Alaska's legislation with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), which state: "A motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old can be lawfully imported into the U.S. without regard to whether it complies with all applicable FMVSS." This allows vehicles manufactured and sold new in other countries that are at least 25 years old to be exempt from NHTSA laws in America. However, instead of passing a 25-year rolling exemption, the Alaska state legislature erroneously established a fixed vehicle manufacture date of 1981 for this law. Because of this oversight, Alaska law does not align with federal law.

Prior to 2025, the Alaska DMV de facto followed federal law, issuing titles for vehicles that were more than 25 years old but were manufactured after 1981. In 2025, the DMV stopped issuing titles, registrations, or renewals for these vehicles, citing the Alaska state law.

Alaskans such as myself have invested tens of thousands of dollars to purchase and import our vehicles. To continue using these vehicles as intended, we must register them with the DMV. Because the DMV must follow the erroneous 2006 Alaska motor vehicle title law, we can no longer use our vehicles as intended. Therefore, we urge you to vote to pass SB239/HB303, which will simply correct the existing legislation to match federal law.

Please help get SB239/HB303 passed and signed into law!

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Mark Tuovinen

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Mark Tuovinen LLC

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**Date:** March 23, 2026 08:30 PM AKDT  
**From:** Valeria Fisher  
**To:** senatetransportation.committee@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** my support for SB 239\_Fishers

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my support for SB 239 and to urge the Senate Transportation Committee to move this bill forward.

Currently, many imported Japanese Domestic Market (JDM) vehicles that are fully legal under federal law—specifically the 25-year import rule—are still being denied titles and registration in Alaska, and almost no other state in the country has laws like this. This creates an unfair situation where Alaskans can legally purchase and own these vehicles, but are prevented from using them due to inconsistent or unclear state-level interpretation of equipment and compliance standards.

This also negatively affects the military families who legally import their vehicles from Japan or Germany on military orders, but then cannot register in Alaska. My family and I are relocating from Japan to Anchorage, Alaska, in May and we cannot register the cars that we are bringing with us from Japan legally.

SB 239 would correct this issue by aligning Alaska's policies with federal law and providing a clear, consistent path for titling and registering these vehicles. This is not about lowering safety standards—it's about applying reasonable, consistent rules that respect both federal guidelines and private property rights.

Alaskans should not be penalized for owning legally imported vehicles, and the current system creates unnecessary confusion for both residents and the DMV. Passing SB 239 would provide clarity, fairness, and a practical solution to a problem that has gone unresolved for too long.

I respectfully ask that you support SB 239 and take action to ensure this bill advances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Valeria Fisher

Wasilla, AK

937-314-8878

**Date:** March 23, 2026 10:14 PM AKDT  
**From:** Brady Gross  
**To:** Senate.Transportation@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** SB239 - Alaska/Federal vehicle registration regulation alignment

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Dear fellow Alaskans and state reps,

I am writing to reiterate my support to raise a concern regarding the alignment between federal motor vehicle law and Alaska's current vehicle registration regulations.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this effort and would like to provide additional context based on my personal experiences I will experience this year through the research and information I've discovered.

I am a property owner and long-term resident of Fairbanks and Ester, Alaska. I am a DoD Civilian govt employee who is returning to my Fort Wainwright position this upcoming July, after completing a current overseas assignment here in Wiesbaden Germany. As part of my move back, the government will be assisting my family with my household goods and vehicle shipment back to Alaska.

Through this government-sponsored move, I am processing and importing a European-spec vehicle from Germany to Fairbanks. This vehicle qualifies for U.S. importation by following a very strict process. I have ensured that every step adheres strictly to federal customs and import regulations, including compliance with the 25-year exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(b)(9). I have already confirmed that my paperwork here will get my 2000 Suzuki properly shipped and processed all the way to Fairbanks.

However, now through the recent revelations I've discovered on the Alaska state website, I could encounter potential challenges in my final step of arrival, in registering and titling the vehicle in Alaska, due to the ambiguity in state regulations.

I find it pretty disconcerting to discover that I will have followed all these strict rules and policies, to get to Alaska's doorstep essentially, and have the state say, "No, all this work isn't good enough."

Furthermore, as part of our move back to Alaska, my family and I will be driving up the ALCAN in July from Seattle. We have already lined up a purchase of a 1999 Toyota van in Oregon that is already titled and registered there – but originally a Japanese import. Another example of a vehicle that has ALREADY gone through all the federal work and been fully accepted and processed through Oregon's DMV system.

These recent Alaska DMV changes make it appear that I could run into issues here as well, in what would normally seem like a straight state-to-state title and registration transaction, might now also be an issue. I have seen several people posting about having these experiences already in Anchorage and elsewhere.

It is quite scary actually to be prepping my family for these move logistics and think that I will be bringing two vehicles to my home state -- and immediately run into issues getting them legal on the road.

Thank you for your continued work on SB239 and look forward to a positive solution for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Brady

Brady Gross

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