



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

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March 31, 2026

VIA Email: House.Community.And.Regional.Affairs@akleg.gov

The House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

House Community and Regional Affairs

120 4th St.

Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 217 – Autonomous Vehicle Regulation

Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee:

Alaska Teamsters Local 959 respectfully asks that you support the passage of House Bill 217, an act to regulate autonomous vehicles in Alaska for commercial use. The integration of autonomous vehicles on roadways in the United States is rapidly advancing as technology continually develops. Autonomous features have most notably been developing in commercial areas of ride sharing and delivery and are starting to be introduced in hauling freight. We strongly support the commercial use of autonomous vehicles being regulated to protect the safety of other drivers on the road, as well as protecting the jobs of hard-working Alaskans.

Alaskan roads are in constant states of flux with snow, ice, rain, and potholes. It is well understood by Alaskan drivers that quick reaction time and a sense of adaptation are required to operate a vehicle on the road system, especially with passengers. The use of a vehicle safety operator will add a layer of safety for any autonomous vehicle operating for commercial use, as the technology may not be able to adapt to the Alaskan roads.

Teamsters Local 959 thanks the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee for hearing the legislation, and we ask the Committee to pass House Bill 217 for the safety of Alaskan drivers and the protection of Alaskan Jobs.

Sincerely,
Teamsters Local 959

Patrick FitzGerald
Political Coordinator

PF:jk

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