

Letter In Support of HB91
February 21, 2015

Representative Shelley Hughes
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Hughes:

I live in Wasilla but work in Anchorage. I have held a commercial driver's license for many years, and work for a transportation company in Anchorage driving semi-truck/trailers. My commute takes me back and forth at least four times a week, and at varying hours of the day or evening, which gives me a fairly broad view of the road situation on our local freeway.

As best as I can determine, there is only one state in the U.S. (South Dakota) that does not have a "slow moving vehicle keep right" law, and only three other states (Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio) that allow drivers to stay in the left lane at or below the speed limit regardless of traffic conditions.

I welcome the advent of this bill to allow traffic enforcement to end the anarchy imposed by drivers who insist on traveling only in the left lane, and to help eliminate the unsafe acts of other drivers who try to pass on the right. Many times I have seen this, and the near-misses that result, and many times I have seen how drivers refuse to move over, even after being signaled by drivers behind them. Often times these drivers are well below the speed limit, in road conditions that are not adverse, but for no good reason refuse to allow others to pass normally.

Our two and three-lane freeway is very congested during rush hours, and the truth of the matter is, that without this law and appropriate enforcement, it wouldn't matter how many lanes we had: the left lanes would still be plugged up by drivers that remain inconsiderate of others.

This change in the law, appropriate signage along the roadway (stating the minimum penalty) as well as enforcement will, without doubt in my mind, mean safer roads and safer travel for all.



George Sahlstrom
Wasilla, Alaska