



AAA Alaska
1277 Treat Blvd., Suite 1000
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki
State Capitol Room 502
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 204 - Support

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

On behalf of AAA Alaska, I would like to inform you of our strong support for HB 204, relating to safe operation of motor vehicles around stationary emergency vehicles. We are non-governmental organization that focuses on improving traffic safety.

This bill would require the operator of a motor vehicle to depart the lane closest to a stationary road maintenance vehicle in the act of performing maintenance or road service work if it is safe to do so or, if it is unsafe to do so, to slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed. This bill would add Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities road maintenance vehicles.

Currently, maintenance workers place cones and deploy flares to alert and prevent drivers from coming within an unsafe distance of a work zone and stationary vehicles. But these are only visual deterrents that are often ignored and leave drivers and road workers are needlessly at risk. Vehicles conducting road maintenance are already equipped with flashing lights to alert traffic of their presence, therefore, implementation of HB 204 would require no additional equipment costs.

AAA Alaska has been a leader and trusted advocate for the safety and security of people for over 100 years. One of our core missions is promoting safer roads and advocating for traffic safety policies. Therefore we urge you to support this bill because it promotes the safe operation of motor vehicles around emergency vehicles, including tow trucks, engaged in their duties at the roadside with emergency flashers activated.

Sincerely,

John Moreno
Manager, Public Affairs
AAA Alaska

cc: Chair Bert Stedman
Members, Senate Transportation Committee