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Governor Bill Walker
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January 25, 2018

The Honorable Pete Kelly
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Kelly,

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the definition of a commercial motor vehicle.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the state highway system. With respect to commercial motor vehicles, which use the state highway system, the Department is responsible for establishing weight, use, and size restrictions for vehicles, and for assuring implementation of federal statutes or regulations relating to commercial motor vehicles. In order to assure continued alignment with federal law, the bill would modify the existing definition of a commercial motor vehicle to be consistent with federal law. This bill would add provisions to address school buses and the type of covered farm vehicle not designated as a commercial vehicle. This would ease restrictions on persons who operate farm vehicles by freeing them to drive beyond the current limitation, a 150-mile boundary, and reduce use restrictions. In addition, a school bus used intrastate for the transport of public pre-elementary, elementary, and secondary school students to and from home and school would not be considered a commercial motor vehicle under this bill.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure