



Elizabeth Mocer
Regional Counsel
Northwest Region

March 16, 2009

Berta Gardner
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Gardner:

Thank you for your support of HB 15. Allstate applauds your efforts to keep our teens and all of us safe by removing distractions from the road.

Mounting research indicates – and common sense supports – that the use of cell phones while driving, especially among young drivers, is highly dangerous. A study published in the British Medical Journal found that cell phone use while driving resulted in a four-fold increase in crashes. Young drivers not only have the least experience but drivers between ages 16 and 24 also display the highest rates of cell phone use while driving, according to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2005, The Allstate Foundation conducted a national survey of teen driving attitudes and behaviors. In the survey, 56 percent of teens said they make and answer cell phone calls while driving, and 13 percent write and/or read text messages. With 12.5 million teen drivers in the U.S., that's 1.62 million drivers writing and/or reading text messages while operating their vehicle.

This is truly an issue where you can make a lifesaving difference for families in Alaska. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mocer
Regional Counsel