

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

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www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

March 27, 2009

VIA e-mail

Representative Kawasaki
Alaska State House of Representatives

Subject: HB 181 USE OF HEADLIGHTS REQUIRED

The Alaska Trucking Association is a state wide organization representing the interests of our nearly 200 member companies from Barrow to Ketchikan. Each day, our industry delivers the essential items that all of us use in our daily lives. The simple truth is that “if you got it, a truck brought it.”

A large part of our mission is to promote highway and driver safety. We do this in a number of different ways. Our member companies conduct driver safety meetings where safety regulations and other important safety matters are discussed. Many companies have full time safety professionals on staff to ensure safe operations. As an association, we support safety improvements.

The bill at hand will cause headlamps to be illuminated at all times while driving a vehicle, whether a personal or a commercial vehicle. Studies have shown there to be a positive impact on safety when headlamps are on. We are supportive of actions that can reduce crashes on our highways and as such are supportive of HB181 that will require headlamps to be illuminated while driving.

Sincerely,



Aves D. Thompson
Executive Director

cc: ATA Board of Director's



If you got it, a truck brought it...

January, 2009

My name is Dona Corey. I have been teaching AARP Driver Safety Program classes for 20 years. This program is an eight-hour defensive driving program written for adults 50 and older although we accept adults of any age in our classes.

I strongly urge the passage of SB73. The following information comes from Australia's "National Roads and Motorists Association," but I am sure that this is just as true in Alaska: "Headlights can save lives, even in broad daylight. Research has shown that more than half of all collisions in daylight are due, in part, to one road user failing to see the other road user in time to avoid a collision."

While we Alaskans enjoy sunny days, as we all know, during a good deal of the year we have gloomy days, snowy days, and rainy days, which can all contribute to one motorist's difficulty in seeing another motorist. A mud-covered vehicle on gray pavement can be very hard to see. My experience and the experience of drivers who have been in my classroom is that car lights help us not only to see other vehicles particularly well at intersections, they also help us judge the speed of oncoming traffic. This is especially true for older drivers, but can help drivers of all ages make correct judgments when deciding whether or not to pass another vehicle. Incidentally, cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians can also benefit from being better able to see approaching vehicles.

Again, I urge the passage of SB73. I firmly believe the use of headlights will help prevent vehicle crashes and keep all of us Alaskan drivers safer when we are out on the road.

Thank you.

Marilyn Lane

From: Bonnie G. Burgan-Kelly [kellconn@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 6:30 AM
To: Sen. Linda Menard
Subject: SB 73

I totally support this bill. I've driven with my lights on all the time for the past 15 years (ever since i drove through Canada where it's been a law for years) and really appreciate other drivers who do, also. One comment I would like to make is my total dislike for the new extra bright lights.

I wish there was some law as to the legal intensity of the light. Way too often I've been blinded by on coming cars coming around a curve on dark roads. These new lights may be wonderful for those driving with them but re dangerous to the rest of us.

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