



Alaska State Legislature

Mike Doogan

Representative
District 25, Anchorage

April 7, 2009

The Honorable Representative Peggy Wilson
Alaska State Capitol
Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Wilson:

I understand the House Transportation Committee you chair will be taking up the issue of cell phone use while driving on March 1. It was also brought to my attention that you offered to look at the several cell phone related bills at the same time, though Rep. Munoz' HB 22 will be the likely vehicle moving forward.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my own HB 35, but, in the interest of time and efficiency, I will respectfully decline to do so. I would urge the committee to consider some of the merits of HB 35 as it deliberates on this important safety issue. The difference between the two bills is that HB 22 makes an exception for hands-free cell phone use, while my bill does not. Studies have shown that hands-free cell use is not significantly less distracting, and that driving ability is still impaired. It is different than talking to a passenger in the car, because it requires different thought processes, and also because passengers are aware of changing road conditions.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to present, though I respectfully decline, and hope the committee will pass a bill that best provides for safe roadways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Doogan".

Rep. Mike Doogan

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4998 or 800-689-4998
Fax 907-465-4419

Rep.Mike.Doogan@legis.state.ak.us

716 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-0216
Fax 907-269-0218