



The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Wes Keller
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 271

Dear Representative Keller:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 271. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

HB 271 raises the weight threshold on intra state commercial vehicles from 10,000 lbs to 14,000 pounds for inspection and safety regulation purposes. This will assist small contractors, i.e. lawn care, carpenters, plumbing & heating, small delivery vehicles and pilot cars. As you are aware, pick-up trucks and small step vans are getting larger and heavier and therefore bumping up over the current 10,000 pound limit and becoming by definition a commercial vehicle for inspection and regulation purposes.

Crossing the 10,000 pound threshold causes the driver to obtain a medical certification, complete daily vehicle inspection reports, perform or have performed annual inspections, and submit several other items on the vehicle to the state DOT to be in compliance. Currently, when over the 10,000 pound threshold, these vehicles are subject to Federal regulations that have been adopted into the Alaska Administrative Code. We feel that these vehicles do not need that level of scrutiny as typically they are operating in a limited geographical area and are not subject to the wear and tear that other larger commercial vehicles experience.

Increased regulation makes it more difficult for small businesses to survive. We appreciate your assistance in relieving small businesses from this potential of unnecessary regulation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. DeWitt", is written over the "Sincerely yours," text.

Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: Rep. Peggy Wilson
Aves Thompson