3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

<u>www.aktrucks.org</u>

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

February 4, 2014
Testimony, Transportation Infrastructure Fund
HJR 10, HB122, HB123
House Finance Committee
Aves D. Thompson, Executive Director
Alaska Trucking Association

Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Aves Thompson, Executive Director of the Alaska Trucking Association. The Alaska Trucking Association is a state wide organization representing the interests of our nearly 200 member companies from Barrow to Ketchikan. Freight movement represents a large chunk of our economy and impacts all of us each and every day. The simple truth is that "if you got it, a truck brought it."



3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

<u>www.aktrucks.org</u>

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

One of the priorities of the Alaska Trucking
Association has been a state funded capital projects
program as federal funding is very likely to decrease
to a point where it will no longer meet Alaska's
transportation infrastructure needs. Alaska needs to
invest our dollars in our transportation system.

We believe that current proposed legislation will go a long way to setting the stage for a robust state funded capital projects program that will benefit all motorists as well as other users of other transportation modes.

As the largest payer of the state motor fuel tax, the trucking industry is pleased to see an effort to devote



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

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

<u>www.aktrucks.org</u>

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

these user fees to the improvement and expansion of our state highway system infrastructure. As an association, we have supported fuel tax increase proposals in the past, provided they are dedicated to the highway system.

We are hopeful that consideration will be given to providing a larger voice in the input process to the freight moving industries, i.e. highway, air, rail, water... Freight mobility is the glue that keeps all of our economy together. Consumer goods, construction and oilfield equipment, fishing, mining, you name it and freight mobility makes it all happen. It is anticipated by the US DOT that freight movements will double in the next 20 years and US DOT and Congress have taken steps to deal with



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

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

<u>www.aktrucks.org</u>

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

these kind of increases. Freight specific programs have developed at the federal level and funding reauthorization places an emphasis on freight movement. States will be required to establish freight programs to be eligible for continued funding. For these reasons, we are hopeful that there will be a mechanism for the freight industry to participate in the decision making process.

We believe the Transportation Infrastructure Fund has the potential to supplement existing programs and help meet the transportation needs for the foreseeable future. ATA supports HJR10, HB122 and HB123. Thank you.

