

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

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

www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

HB 46 WAIVE CDL SKILLS TEST FOR CERTAIN VETERANS

House State Affairs Committee

8:00 am, February 12, 2013

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.

I am here today to testify in support of HB 46.

One of the pressing problems in our industry today is to find qualified drivers for the commercial vehicles that we use to deliver freight. As you all know, “if you got it, a truck brought it...” We spend a lot of time and effort recruiting and retaining good drivers. The regulatory bar has been raised in the past few years to further increase the professionalism of drivers in our industry. When someone says he or she is just a truck driver, they miss the mark completely. Truck driving is a profession that requires a great deal of in-depth knowledge of the regulations as well as driving skills to navigate a large rig through our



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highway system. Alaska has some of the best drivers in the nation. They become outstanding drivers through training, experience and their own enlightened self-interest because sometimes their driving skills can very well save their own lives or the lives of others.

As an industry, we welcome our returning veterans and appreciate this opportunity to do something to support them as well as to help ourselves. These men and women have had some of the best truck driving training available and will also have a good deal of recent hands on experience in driving big rigs. With the proper certifications as to a veteran's experience, we support waiving the skills test for the issuance of a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). A number of other states have similar programs for their veterans and we should do no less for our returning veterans.

As a veteran myself and on behalf of our membership, we are proud to support our veterans and to support HB46 and urge that you pass this bill out of committee with "do pass" recommendations. Thank you.



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