

January 30, 2016

Sen. Peter Micciche, Chairman
Senate Transportation Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

RE: SB 92 -An act relating to the use of headlights

Dear Chairman Micciche and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

Because I will be unable to provide oral testimony on SB 92 at the hearing scheduled in your committee on February 4, I am writing to express my opposition to this legislation.

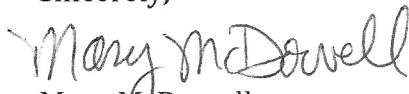
While I understand that some people are unhappy about the way DOT went about implementing the experimental mandatory headlights areas, I think it is DOT's responsibility to find low-cost, simple ways to protect public safety, and testing the effectiveness of mandatory headlight use in reducing vehicle accidents is a good step in that direction. In my own research into this topic, I have found many studies that show that requiring the use of headlights at all times is effective.

Two years ago I survived a bad, high-speed, daytime auto accident. I spent three and a half months in a hospital bed and, while I am among those fortunate enough to have recovered quite well after such an accident, the effects of that crash will be with me the rest of my life. If we can prevent even a few accidents by simply requiring daytime use of headlights -- thus saving some of our fellow Alaskans from painful, crippling injuries or death, and their families, friends, and society from the resulting pain, loss, disruption, and expense --- why would we not do that?

I encourage the committee to either not pass SB92, or to amend the bill to at least grant explicit authority to DOT to set up areas to test out the effectiveness of mandatory daytime headlights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary McDowell
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