



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 302 • Washington • Alaska • Idaho • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager & General Vice President*

March 8, 2019

Senator Mia Costello
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: SB 75 -- license to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

Dear Senator Costello:

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 is writing this letter in support of SB75 to lower the age limit to the age of 18 to receive your commercial driver's license.

The Operating Engineers Training Center in Palmer Alaska trains over 20 to 25 new heavy duty mechanic apprentices and 20 to 25 new heavy equipment operator apprentices every year. In the three months of initial training every apprentice receives a commercial driver's license except the few apprentices that are 18 years of age. It is crucial for the apprentices in their first year to get as many endorsements or licenses as they can so when the coordinators find them employment with our union contractors, they will be prepared and ready for work.

Again, we are in full support of SB75 and look forward to seeing the age limit changed to help Alaskan have a productive future.

Sincerely,

Corey Baxter
District 8 Representative
907-321-4271

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