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To: Senate Transportation Committee

Re: SB 75

My name is Joey Crum and I am the President and CEO of Northern Industrial Training, LLC otherwise known as NIT. NIT is a nationally accredited post-secondary education provider headquartered in Palmer, with training locations state wide. NIT is Alaska's largest provider of CDL training and we have multiple CDL courses certified by the Professional Truck Driving Institute.

I am writing to express my support for SB 75 lowering the legal age of a CDL holder to 18 years old. The trucking industry as a whole has become very safety conscious and focused, adopting safer equipment that utilizes technology and implementing continuous training programs to develop drivers once they are hired. Many states have already adopted 18 as the legal age and Alaskan 18 year olds are capable of safely operating vehicles that require a CDL.

Nationwide, we are experiencing a driver shortage in the tens of thousands. Passing SB 75 will help us in our effort in lessening this shortage, and to allow 18 year olds the opportunity to enter a career oriented industry immediately out of high school.

In closing, SB75 is a good bill and I ask that you carefully consider and pass it.

Respectfully,


Joey Crum
President & CEO