

The Honorable Jesse Kiehl  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 419  
Juneau, AK 99801



March 4, 2020

RE: SB 183 Abandoned Vehicles

Dear Senator Kiehl,

My thanks for your introduction of Senate Bill 183, "An Act relating to vehicles abandoned on private property". Presently, under current state law, the period of time before a vehicle left on private property can be considered abandoned is six months, which is far too long. My comments in support of reducing that timeframe come to you from two perspectives, one from the Credit Union as a property owner and the other as a lienholder.

True North FCU has a branch and administrative facility in the Vintage Park area of Mendenhall Valley in Juneau. It is a sizable lot with parking that is adequate for our needs at present, but we do not have extra space. While happily not a frequent occurrence, we do periodically get vehicles left on our lot on which we are not lienholder. When that happens, we not only get the pleasure of paying to dispose of the property, but it impacts our usage of the lot and potentially the appearance of the lot in the interim. Additionally, one abandoned vehicle can be invitation to others. I understand and agree that the property rights of the vehicle owner must be protected, but a six months waiting period does not strike the appropriate balance between their rights and ours. I believe 30 or 45 days is a far more reasonable waiting period (although I would certainly advocate that sooner is better!).

Further, as a lienholder, I would very much like to know that a vehicle collateralizing a loan with the Credit Union has been abandoned on someone else's private property! If they have to wait six months before providing notice so that we can retrieve our collateral, the value of the abandoned collateral will decline, either through natural decline or damage, and the loss experienced by the Credit Union will increase. In such a scenario, the likelihood that we will recoup that loss is generally slim.

For these reasons, we support the bill to reduce the required time frame from six months to 30 days. Again, my thanks for your efforts of this issue, and for the consideration of your fellow Legislators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren MacVay", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Lauren MacVay  
President/CEO  
True North Federal Credit Union

Accounts and shares are insured  
by the National Credit Union  
Administration to the maximum  
insurance amount for each member.

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