



## ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER

April 17, 2023

House Transportation Committee,

The Alaska Technical Center is an adult vocational education facility located in Kotzebue. We offer a variety of vocational and technical training including training for one to receive their commercial driver's license.

One of the barriers we have seen is the State requirement for an individual to hold a Class D driver's license for a full year prior to receiving their CDL. Current state law assumes that a young person will get their driver's license when they turn 16 and be ready to test and train to obtain their CDL at age 18. This is typical for youth in urban areas but is not true for those in rural areas where roads are non-existent or limited and a driver's license is not required.

This requirement places an undue burden on rural, primarily Alaska Native, youth who may decide to pursue a commercial driver's license and must wait for a year, possibly losing interest and missing out on employment opportunities.

Alaska and the nation are short of commercial truck driver's and this state requirement is hindering our ability to recruit and train new drivers. With the revisions and modernization to the federal Entry-Level Driver Training program, there is no safety value added by the state requirement.

The Alaska Technical Center supports HB124, "An Act relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers' license requirements" and encourages you to **pass HB124**.

Sincerely,

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