

**SB**

**222**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: March 22, 2002

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4.24.02

The JUDICIARY Committee considered:

CSSB 222(FIN)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 222(FIN)

REQUIRE SLOW DRIVERS TO PULL OVER

"An Act relating to certain motor vehicles that are required to yield to following traffic."

Recommends it be replaced with H CS FOR CSSB 222 (~~222~~) <sup>JUD</sup> [] Same Title [ ] New Title  
 For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_

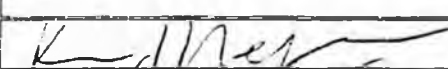
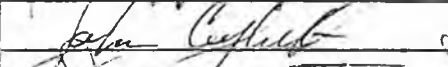
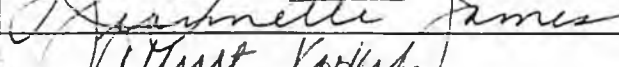
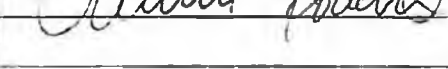
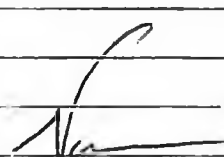
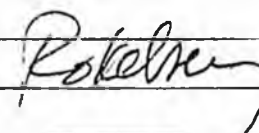
- [ ] attach amendments
- [ ] add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- [ ] Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

List of Abbrev. for Depts.:

- ADM
- CED
- COR
- CRT
- EED
- DEC
- DFG
- GOV
- HSS
- LAA
- LAW
- LWF
- MVA
- DNR
- DPS
- REV
- DOT
- UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*For Chief Clerk's Office Use Only				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
DPS	2	✓		✓
DOT	1	✓		

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Mary			✓	
	Cathy			✓	
	JAMES			✓	
	Koblars			✓	
Chair: 	R. Koblars	✓			
Chair: 	R. Koblars	✓			

22-LS06110  
Ford  
4/22/02

*Adopted  
4-24-02*

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 222( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DONLEY

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to certain motor vehicles that are required to yield to following  
2 traffic."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 \* Section 1. AS 28.35.140 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (b) A person operating a motor vehicle <sup>or more</sup> ~~below~~ <sup>five miles ~~per~~</sup> the posted speed limit at any  
6 time on a two-lane roadway shall pull the motor vehicle off the roadway at the first  
7 opportunity to pull over safely whenever there are five or more motor vehicles  
8 immediately following that motor vehicle. A person operating a motor vehicle who  
9 violates this subsection is guilty of an infraction as described in AS 28.40.050(d) and  
10 shall be punished by a fine of at least \$<sup>100</sup>200, ~~and the department shall assess two points~~  
11 ~~against the person's driver's license.~~ *Amendment #2 Adopted.*

*Amendment #2  
Adopted*



**SENATOR DAVE DONLEY**  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** House Judiciary Members  
**FROM:** Senator Dave Donley *DB*  
**DATE:** April 23, 2002  
**RE:** Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 222 "An Act relating to certain motor vehicles that are required to yield to following traffic."

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I support the adoption of the attached Committee Substitute for CSSB 222 (FIN) "An Act relating to certain motor vehicles that are required to yield to following traffic" for your consideration. This CS work draft removes the condition that a driver is only supposed to pull over when they have 100 feet of unobstructed roadway. It still maintains that they are to pull over only when it is safe to do so.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact Sara Wright of my staff at x3892. Thank you.

Attachments: House Work Draft CS for Senate Bill 222()  
Sponsor Statement

DD/sew

**Co-Chair: Senate Finance Committee**  
**Vice-Chair: Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Member: Legislative Budget and Audit Committee • Legislative Council**

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January-May: STATE CAPITOL • JUNEAU, AK • 99801 • (907) 465-3892 • FAX: (907) 465-6595  
June-December: 716 West Fourth Avenue • Suite 400 • ANCHORAGE, AK • 99501 • (907) 269-0234 • FAX: (907) 269-0238  
Email: Senator\_Dave\_Donley@legis.state.ak.us  
[www.akRepublicans.org/Donley.htm](http://www.akRepublicans.org/Donley.htm) • [www.legis.state.ak.us/senate/donley/htm](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/senate/donley/htm)



# SENATOR DAVE DONLEY

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**SPONSOR STATEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 222 (FIN)**  
**"AN ACT RELATING TO CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES THAT ARE**  
**REQUIRED TO YIELD TO FOLLOWING TRAFFIC."**

Committee Substitute to Senate Bill 222 (FIN) will, with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, increase the number of posted signs along some of Alaska's highways informing motorists of the existing law prohibiting a vehicle from delaying traffic. This bill will also increase the fine for those in violation of this law from \$30 to \$200 and will assess two points to the violator's driver's license.

Current Alaska regulation prohibits traffic traveling at less than the posted speed limit from delaying five or more vehicles; however, many drivers are not aware of this. It is the intent of this bill to make motorists more conscious of this law and to lessen some of the congestion on our highways, especially during the summer months.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has committed to placing 20 signs on Alaskan highways with high traffic volume. The signs will indicate that it is unlawful to delay five or more vehicles and that a violation is punishable by a minimum fine of \$200 and an assessment of two points on the violator's driver's license.

This legislation is a step in the right direction to lessen the traffic congestion problems caused by slow vehicles. It is unfair and dangerous to motorists that a few drivers should "own" the road and dictate their own speed limit.

DD/sew

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Email: [Senator\\_Dave\\_Donley@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us)  
[www.akrepublicans.org/Donley.htm](http://www.akrepublicans.org/Donley.htm) • [www.legis.state.ak.us/senate/donley/htm](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/senate/donley/htm)

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
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ORIGINAL  
COPIES

Letter to the editor:

SLOW, BUT RESPECTFULLY SAFE

I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years and used to travel more than I do these days. But, recently during the last few years I have noticed a very disturbing trend. Drivers are ever increasing their daring and worse, their ill manners on the road behind the wheel of a motor vehicle by speeding, passing carelessly and cutting too close when passing. It seems many drivers in their impatient zeal to get ahead to where they are going, hit the gas pedal with dangerous enthusiasm, throwing the consequences to the four winds and often insulting other lawful users on the road.

Now, I was properly educated in high school to prepare for my first drivers licence over 49 years ago and during my many relocations took six different state drivers examinations over these years travelling all over the lower 48 and Canada. Early on we were taught that not only following the rules of the road as outlined in the compodium of motor vehicle rules, but that attitude was of prime importance when using a public highway.

It seems that many newer vehicles are finding their way to the wrecking yards now, more than ever before! This tells us something. Car TV ads are trying to excite the buying public to emulate their dangerous and often unlawful behavior in order to sell more cars and pick-up trucks. They appeal to the adolescent impulses by demonstrating and talking about their products in this nefarious way, attracting the public to drive the way "they" do on TV! Many seem to be taking the "bait"; hence the rash of poor drivers who obviously don't intend to behave behind the wheel as they were instructed in order to get their first licence.

Because of the increase in speed limits from 55 to 65 mph, many drivers don't think out their travel plan on the roads by giving enough time to arrive at their destination without temptation to push the safety envelope unwisely the way that many of them do here in Alaska. Roads are often icy and snow covered and many hidden defects are present on the road because of the weather and curtailed maintenance because of budget shortfalls. It seems that added to this mix is the chicano recently here from warmer climates who doesn't have enough understanding of the damaging effects of our typical climate here in the sub-arctic to appreciate these often unseen dangers lurking out there in front of his or her car or pick-up. Four wheel drive does not make for a failsafe truck. Black ice and uneven roadway surfaces and distortion of super-elevation (banking) around curves because of frost heaves are not always noticeable to even the best drivers. Such features can actually change from week to week here in Alaska, particularly during break-up.

The only safe way to deal with these problems, including long periods of darkness and daylight is to allow more than enough time to reach your destination, discipline yourself to obey the rules you were taught to get your driver license and DO NOT try to match the upper limit of the speed limit! Speed limits in Alaska are often set by policies of the federal government by engineers who are NOT always qualified to decide what is safe here in the sub-arctic and beyond. Many of them do not even know what frost heaves, glaciation and black ice are all about...but if you have lost control of your vehicle, you don't want to suffer the experience of finding out the hard way!

Even, and especially in summer, with the very long daylight, beware! People have been killed in head-on collisions at 65 mph, closing and colliding into each other at 130 mph! Obviously, fatigue from trying to fit too much itinerary and too long travelling about in planes, cars, trains and such; overwhelmed their tenacity to stay alert and avoid these deadly accidents.

Therefore, it is very obvious to a competent driver, that going slower than the posted speed limit is necessary where conditions do not permit safe passage at the posted speed. Moreover, some of us are carrying heavy loads and fuel to our homes from town. This extra weight reduces stopping distances, so we MUST

Page 2

drive slower.

Should we, the prudent drivers, be fined and ticketed and even be given 2 infraction points as we are travelling roads we know well, simply because rude, impatient drivers want special privileges to speed; demanding the open road before their path?

What kind of half-baked legislation is this anyway? It seems Senator Donley is opening the flood gates to grant impulsive and irresponsible drivers the free reign to push out all us respectable, law and safety conscious citizens off the road our taxes pay for and turn around and sue and fine us in traffic courts, granting these callous people the satisfaction they crave for in their throat to get to where they are going ahead of everybody else.

I firmly believe we do need to address this problem, but NOT in the way Senator Donley has approached this issue. If indeed, the Sterling highway is overcrowded; we must then add more lanes to safely carry the traffic. Of course, at first glance this looks too expensive, particularly at a time when we need to consider cutting the state budget. But, there is a way to get this done competently and almost painlessly. Make such a road a toll road...only during the summer and on weekends, when traffic pours out heavy from Anchorage towards the Kenai peninsula. Allow for residents who are over 65 and below the poverty line to get travel privileges on this better road at a reduced or free rate and anyone else whose travel on it would become a financial hardship.

The state would as well as travellers gain a decisive benefit. We would all save money avoiding expensive law suits arising from terrible accidents. Fewer people would have accidents and everybody would get to their destinations faster, safer and more reliably in spite of the ice, sheets of water running across the roadway from melting snowberms, and of course; slower drivers!

Yes, even in the eyes of impatient drivers and those who are late for their destinations; THIS would be a better approach to solving this vexing problem. What do YOU think? Please contact your representative and senator giving the take that you have to this alternative. A toll road which aims at those who can pay, especially outsiders who expect to pony up for their vacations in fishing land will also find this a benefit and such a modern, high speed, safe highway will attract and appeal to everyone, bringing us more eager visitors to our beautiful homeland and improving our economy. The same possibilities are true for the Parks highway to Denali Park. The cost at first would have to be floated, but once it was done; this would become a permanent, solid income producer which would eventually pay-off the construction costs, the management for collecting the tolls and then generate good earnings to pay for running state government. Think of it! Act on it!

Robert,  
from the "bush".



# SENATOR DAVE DONLEY

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 222 (FIN)

### "AN ACT RELATING TO CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO YIELD TO FOLLOWING TRAFFIC."

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Current Alaska regulation prohibits traffic traveling at less than the posted speed limit from delaying five or more vehicles; however, many drivers are not aware of this. It is the intent of this bill to make motorists more conscious of this law and to lessen some of the congestion on our highways, especially during the summer months.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has committed to placing 20 signs on Alaskan highways with the highest traffic volume. The signs will indicate that it is unlawful to delay five or more vehicles and that a violation is punishable by a minimum fine of \$200 and an assessment of two points on a violator's driver's license.

This legislation is a step in the right direction to lessen the traffic congestion problems caused by slow vehicles. It is unfair and dangerous to motorists that a few drivers should "own" the road and dictate their own speed limit.

DD/sew

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB222  
 (S) Publish Date: 2/19/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: DOT&PF  
 Title An Act relating to certain motor BRU Highways and Aviation  
vehicles that are required to yield to following traffic Component Central Region Highways and Aviation  
 Sponsor Donley  
 Requester Senate Transportation Component No. 564

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	30.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	30.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The department expects to install approximately 20 signs at appropriate highway locations to notify the public of the law. Production and installation costs approximately \$1500/sign. 20 signs X \$1500 = \$30.0

Prepared by: Dennis R. Poshard, Assistant to Commissioner  
 Division: Commissioner's Office  
 Approved by: Joseph L. Perkins, Commissioner  
 Agency: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Phone 465-3904  
 Date/Time 2/11/02 9:51 AM  
 Date 2/11/2002

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
 Bill Version: CSSB 222(TRA)  
 (S) Publish Date: 3/1/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title Require Slow Drivers to Pull Over BRU AST Detachments  
 Component AST Detachments  
 Sponsor Senator Donley  
 Requester Senate Finance Committee Component No. 2325

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will have no fiscal impact for the Department of Public Safety.

Prepared by: Lt. Julia Grimes Phone 269-4532  
 Division: Division of Alaska State Troopers Date/Time 2/25/02 3:04 PM  
 Approved by: Commissioner Glenn Godfrey Date 2/25/2002  
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

**Subject:** [Fwd: Priblems with SB222]  
**Date:** Mon, 08 Apr 2002 13:25:24 -0800  
**From:** Representative Norman Rokeberg <Representative\_Norman\_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>  
**Organization:** Alaska State Legislature  
**To:** Heather\_Nobrega@legis.state.ak.us

---

**Subject:** Priblems with SB222

**Date:** Mon, 8 Apr 2002 12:30:25 -0800  
**From:** "Roy Dillard" <rdillard@gci.net>  
**To:** "Berkowitz" <Representative\_Ethan\_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Coghill" <Representative\_John\_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"James" <Representative\_Jeannette\_James@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Kookesh" <Representative\_Albert\_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Meyer" <Representative\_Kevin\_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Ogan" <Representative\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Rokeberg" <Representative\_Norman\_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>

Roy Dillard  
3600 Perenosa Bay  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
344-8938  
rdillard@gci.net

My understanding is that SB 222 has been sent to the House Judiciary Committee for review. This bill presents numerous safety problems and should not be passed out of committee. Some of the more obvious items that should cause concern are:

1. This bill in effect changes the posted speed limit to a minimum instead of a maximum. If the speed limit is 65, and I am driving 62 with 5 vehicles behind me, I am required to pull over or face a fine and points. If the speed limit is 65, and I am driving 65 with 5 vehicles behind me, I am not required to pull over. How fast do you think I am going to drive even if it is safer to drive at the lower speed? It says that a slow driver is a driver not going the speed limit. Page 56 of the drivers' manual says "You are not required to drive the maximum speed limit." This bill encourages speeding. A fine at 15 MPH below the posted speed limit would be more reasonable and a lot safer.

2. The statement in the bill "100 feet of visible and unobstructed roadway in front of that motor

vehicle" could encourage people to follow to close. I interpret this statement to mean, if there is more than 100 feet between my vehicle and the vehicle in front of me, I am required to pull over (If I am driving below the speed limit with 5 vehicles following). Page 28 of the drivers' manual says use the "TWO-SECOND RULE". Traveling at 65 MPH, the two-second rule would require you to be at least 190 feet behind the vehicle in front of you. The statement above is confusing and doesn't make any sense at all.

3. A person traveling 5 MPH over the speed limit will get less of a fine than a person going 5 MPH under the speed limit. If speed is one of the main causes of accidents, does this make sense?

4. The fast drivers are not satisfied driving the speed limit, they want to drive 10 to 15 MPH over the posted speed. This bill gives the speeders the right of way and tells slower drivers they don't belong on Alaska roads. We are going to tell tourist that we will fine them \$200 dollars if they can't drive the speed limit on our two lane winding roads.

5. This bill takes the courtesy out of driving and will increase road rage.

6. There are not a lot of good turn outs on Alaska roads. One of the most dangerous times driving a RV is pulling into traffic from a turn out. On the Seward Highway it is extremely hazardous. If this bill passes my wife won't be able to drive our RV on the Seward Highway, it will be too dangerous. Speeders have the right of way.

Letter to the editor:

SLOW, BUT RESPECTFULLY SAFE

I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years and used to travel more than I do these days. But, recently during the last few years I have noticed a very disturbing trend. Drivers are ever increasing their daring and worse, their ill manners on the road behind the wheel of a motor vehicle by speeding, passing carelessly and cutting too close when passing. It seems many drivers in their impatient zeal to get ahead to where they are going, hit the gas pedal with dangerous enthusiasm, throwing the consequences to the four winds and often insulting other lawful users on the road.

Now, I was properly educated in high school to prepare for my first drivers license over 49 years ago and during my many relocations took six different state drivers examinations over these years travelling all over the lower 48 and Canada. Early on we were taught that not only following the rules of the road as outlined in the compedium of motor vehicle rules, but that attitude was of prime importance when using a public highway.

It seems that many newer vehicles are finding their way to the wrecking yards now, more than ever before! This tells us something. Car TV ads are trying to excite the buying public to emulate their dangerous and often unlawful behavior in order to sell more cars and pick-up trucks. They appeal to the adolescent impulses by demonstrating and talking about their products in this nefarious way, attracting the public to drive the way "they" do on TV! Many seem to be taking the "bait"; hence the rash of poor drivers who obviously don't intend to behave behind the wheel as they were instructed in order to get their first license.

Because of the increase in speed limits from 55 to 65 mph, many drivers don't think out their travel plan on the roads by giving enough time to arrive at their destination without temptation to push the safety envelope unwisely the way that many of them do here in Alaska. Roads are often icy and snow covered and many hidden defects are present on the road because of the weather and curtailed maintenance because of budget shortfalls. It seems that added to this mix is the chicaco recently here from warmer climates who doesn't have enough understanding of the damaging effects of our typical climate here in the sub-arctic to appreciate these often unseen dangers lurking out there in front of his or her car or pick-up. Four wheel drive does not make for a failsafe truck. Black ice and uneven roadway surfaces and distortion of superelevation (banking) around curves because of frost heaves are not always noticeable to even the best drivers. Such features can actually change from week to week here in Alaska, particularly during break-up.

The only safe way to deal with these problems, including long periods of darkness and daylight is to allow more than enough time to reach your destination, discipline yourself to obey the rules you were taught to get your driver license and DO NOT try to match the upper limit of the speed limit! Speed limits in Alaska are often set by policies of the federal government by engineers who are NOT always qualified to decide what is safe here in the sub-arctic and beyond. Many of them do not even know what frost heaves, glaciation and black ice are all about....but if you have lost control of your vehicle, you don't want to suffer the experience of finding out the hard way!

Even, and especially in summer, with the very long daylight, beware! People have been killed in head-on collisions at 65 mph, closing and colliding into each other at 130 mph! Obviously, fatigue from trying to fit too much itinerary and too long travelling about in planes, cars, trains and such; overwhelmed their tenacity to stay alert and avoid these deadly accidents.

Therefore, it is very obvious to a competent driver, that going slower than the posted speed limit is necessary where conditions do not permit safe passage at the posted speed. Moreover, some of us are carrying heavy loads and fuel to our homes from town. This extra weight reduces: stopping distances, so we MUST

drive slower.

Should we, the prudent drivers, be fined and ticketed and even be given 2 infraction points as we are travelling roads we know well, simply because rude, impatient drivers want special privileges to speed; demanding the open road before their path?

What kind of half-baked legislation is this anyway? It seems Senator Donley is opening the flood gates to grant impulsive and irresponsible drivers the free reign to push out all us respectable, law and safety conscious citizens off the road our taxes pay for and turn around and sue and fine us in traffic courts, granting these callous people the satisfaction they crave for in their thirst to get to where they are going ahead of everybody else.

I firmly believe we do need to address this problem, but NOT in the way Senator Donley has approached this issue. If indeed, the Sterling highway is overcrowded; we must then add more lanes to safely carry the traffic. Of course, at first glance this looks too expensive, particularly at a time when we need to consider cutting the state budget. But, there is a way to get this done competently and almost painlessly. Make such a road a toll road....only during the summer and on weekends, when traffic pours out heavy from Anchorage towards the Kenai peninsular. Allow for residents who are over 65 and below the poverty line to get travel privileges on this better road at a reduced or free rate and anyone else whose travel on it would become a financial hardship.

The state would as well as travellers gain a decisive benefit. We would all save money avoiding expensive law suits arising from terrible accidents. Fewer people would have accidents and everybody would get to their destinations faster, safer and more reliably in spite of the ice, sheets of water running across the roadway from melting snowberms, and of course: slower drivers!

Yes, even in the eyes of impatient drivers and those who are late for their destinations; THIS would be a better approach to solving this vexing problem. What do YOU think? Please contact your representative and senator giving the take that you have to this alternative. A toll road which aims at those who can pay, especially outsiders who expect to pony up for their vacations in fishing land will also find this a benefit and such a modern, high speed, safe highway will attract and appeal to everyone, bringing us more eager visitors to our beautiful homeland and improving our economy. The same possibilities are true for the Parks highway to Denali Park. The cost at first would have to be floated, but once it was done; this would become a permanent, solid income producer which would eventually pay-off the construction costs, the management for collecting the tolls and then generate good earnings to pay for running state government. Think of it! Act on it!

Robert,  
from the "bush".

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