



April 19, 2023

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: Senate Bill 123, License Requirements: Comm. Drivers

Dear Chair Bjorkman, and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in support of Senate Bill 123, an Act relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers' license requirements; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support workforce development to increase the number of qualified employees needed to fill positions in resource industries. SB123 would eliminate one of the many barriers to entry of individuals seeking a career in trucking and transportation.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently implemented its Entry Level Driver Training program (ELDT), which establishes a "Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators." This program was a result of years of engagement with Safety Organizations, Industry, and other Stakeholders. ELDT provides a checklist of well over 100 different skills, inspection, and knowledge requirements an applicant must prove to be proficient in before they are allowed to test for a CDL. Considering these new requirements, the holding of a regular driver's license for a calendar year is a redundant barrier to entry into the transportation industry.

Our members know firsthand how vital trained and licensed CDL drivers are to the Alaskan economy. Not only in the resource industry, but across all industry sectors that rely on transportation of goods and services.

In closing, the Chamber supports SB123 and encourages swift passage of this straightforward and good for business bill. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi  
President and CEO



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