

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-334-2630



Session – January-April:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3783

Representative Ken McCarty

Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov

January 19, 2022

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

As members of the Alaska State Legislature, we wish to express our concern and dismay at the January 15, 2022 vaccine mandate imposed upon United States truck drivers entering Canada to and from Alaska, and respectfully request you rescind this requirement.

The current mandate prevents Alaska-based and other US-based truckers who choose to remain unvaccinated from entering and exiting Canada with valuable and vital goods headed for the people of Alaska as well as the lower-48 US states and the provinces of Canada.

We are all aware of recent reports of supply-chain difficulties, including the shortage of truck drivers. This workforce challenge will only be exacerbated by your and President Biden's vaccine mandates and intensify the supply-chain dilemma. In short, the vaccination requirement for truck drivers will severely and negatively impact both Americans and Canadians who rely on goods hauled by truck drivers for daily living; it will also severely and negatively impact the economies of the states and provinces as well as the economies of both of our nations.

Specifically in Alaska, the vaccine mandate will increase the food insecurity of Alaskans, add to the inflationary costs we already face, and jeopardize jobs and the well-being of individuals and families. Today, the shelves of grocery stores, auto part retailers, and building material suppliers in Alaska are among the sectors already affected by supply shortages. Alaskan livelihoods depend upon a continual flow of trade back and forth between your nation and ours, between your provinces and our state. Let us continue this mutual benefit.

We would like to draw to your attention that the American Truckers Association and the Canadian Truckers Association maintain that truck drivers, by nature of their job description, remain isolated from the general public, as demonstrated by low Coronavirus infection rates among drivers. We also ask that you note that the Alaska Trucking Association opposes the

vaccine mandates in both Canada and the United States. Vaccine restrictions on truck drivers are detrimental, with more than two-thirds of the internationally traded goods between the United States and Canada hauled by road.

In closing, as Alaskans we cherish our cooperative relationship with our Canadian neighbors that has endured for years. This necessary transportation of goods between and through our lands is vital and beneficial to both Alaskans and Canadians and should continue uninterrupted.

We, the undesigned members of the Alaska State Legislature, humbly request that you lift the recently imposed vaccine requirement for truckers traversing the Canadian border (as we ask our federal administration to do the same on behalf of your Canadian truckers who face the same restrictive mandate traversing the U.S. border).

Respectfully,



Rep. Ken McCarty



Rep. Ben Carpenter



Rep. Christopher Kurka



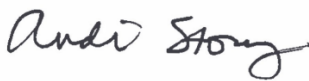
Rep. Grier Hopkins



Rep. Tom McKay



Rep. George Rauscher



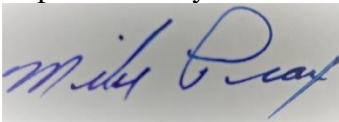
Rep. Andi Story



Rep. Bart LeBon



Rep. Steve Thompson



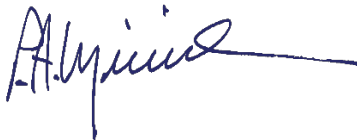
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Rep. Sara Rasmussen



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Rep. James Kaufman



Sen. Shelley Hughes



Rep. Josiah Patkotak



Sen. Robert Myers



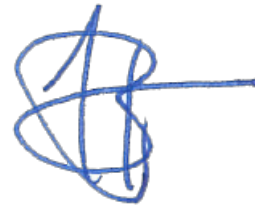
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Rep. Kevin McCabe