

On Dec 22, 2020, at 21:25, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Representative McCabe,

I urge you to support switching to a single license plate on motor vehicles and to eliminate the front license plate, either via a cost-saving measure in the state budget or via a standalone bill. Please bundle the front-plate elimination provision together with the other necessary budget cuts so that the provision "cruises along" and is voted as a package with all the other cuts. This exact method has been used successfully before, despite the fact that the pressure to cut costs was nowhere near as great then as it is now.

A front license plate is redundant and unnecessary when the rear plate is already present. In fact, 20 states have already dumped the front plate, and people in those states are very happy with this. Those states run just fine and have not descended into chaos. No state has switched from one plate to two plates in several decades, and it is easy to understand why: drivers, who make up the vast majority of citizens, loathe to wake up one morning to the nightmare of being told to drill holes into their cars.

Eliminating the front plate is a cost-saving measure in this financially difficult time for Alaska. The state government will experience an unprecedented drop in tax revenue due to people losing their jobs, and we need to tighten our belt as a state by eliminating unnecessary spending. One common sense way to further this objective is to halt the wasteful expense of manufacturing the superfluous front license plate.

Front plates are a hassle to install by car dealers and consumers. Important safety technology such as proximity and traffic sensors are present on the front grills of modern cars, which impede and can be damaged by attempts to install a front plate. The resale value of a car goes down tremendously once holes have been drilled into the front bumper. Removing the front plate maintains a car's health by allowing the designed airflow to occur, thereby meeting the component cooling requirements. Eliminating front plates protects the aesthetic contours of cars so that drivers aren't forced to disfigure their cars with the dreaded "metal mustache".

Residents of other states can legally drive around Alaska with no front license plate, whereas our own residents are pulled over and fined a hefty amount for doing the same thing; this is an absurd situation where our residents are discriminated against. Manufacturing and delivering front plates to every car owner in the state incurs an enormous cost to drivers, placing a disproportionately greater burden on our poorest and most vulnerable citizens, who are already struggling to make ends meet. People who've experienced the good life in a one-plate state will tell you that nothing says "Freedom!" better than sporting a bare front bumper.

A single license plate is plenty enough for toll road scanners to function very well, and the fact that 4 of the 5 states with the most toll road mileage (Florida, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Ohio) have a single license plate is overwhelming proof of this. This fact totally annihilates the bogus claim that video surveillance systems can't be adjusted to look for rear license plates. Special interests that peddle such false arguments while pretending to speak for law enforcement will always want more privacy-invading toys to satisfy their glut for surveillance. If it were up to them, cars would need license plates on the back, front, driver's side, passenger's side and top - you know, just in case a getaway car that's driving backwards and sideways has to be chased by a helicopter! Allied stooges of the institutional surveillance lobby are the proverbial busybodies and creeps who have nothing better to do than to sit in front of their window peering through blinds with binoculars and a notepad (or the modern-day equivalent, LPR cameras) to spy on their neighbors' comings and goings.

All jokes aside, the well scripted and coordinated "party line" heard from bureaucratic and big brother special interests are not representative of the views of law enforcement officers. Talking with LEOs

personally will reveal much more balanced and nuanced opinions on this matter, though they may be reluctant to publicly go against their union's or bosses' groupthink. For example, many LEOs are car enthusiasts, and they would understandably jump at the opportunity to ditch the front license plate on their own car, so as to show off a sleek frontal view. Just look at how many private cars in police parking lots don't have a front plate - this is a more honest gauge of the real feelings of LEOs toward front plates.

Referring to Ohio's decision to stop requiring front plates starting July 1st of 2020, trooper Jessica McIntyre, spokesperson for the Ohio State Highway Patrol, admitted that doing away with the requirement will be a "breath of fresh air" for motorists, as many vehicles are not manufactured with a place for a front plate. She said "We adapt to changes. The patrol does and other agencies as well. So it doesn't pose a problem." She also stated "That's going to be a blessing to a lot of people, is that they don't have to mess up their vehicles or pay for vehicles in order to have a front license plate on it."

In the midst of the tragic news about deaths resulting from altercations between police and suspects, I would like to share with you a heartbreaking event that stemmed from the law mandating a front license plate in Ohio, an event that became the catalyst for the elimination of the front plate in that state. Samuel DuBose, a 43-year-old unarmed man, was shot and killed by Ray Tensing, a University of Cincinnati police officer, after being pulled over for not having a front plate. A grand jury indicted Tensing for murder and voluntary manslaughter, but two hung juries were unable to reach a verdict, despite the University of Cincinnati having paid millions of dollars to the family of the slain Samuel DuBose, and pledging to provide his 13 children, all of whom are now orphans, with a free undergraduate education when they grow up.

The chilling video of the shooting is available online - an incident like this in Alaska would be a terrible setback for police-community relations, and would damage mutual trust for years to come. It is only a matter of time before such incidents take place in our state as a result of the front license plate mandate. I implore you to remove the mandate in order to prevent tragedies like this, and to spare Alaska the rage, violence and destruction that ensue thereafter.

Detective Cecil Thomas (ret), a veteran police officer of the Cincinnati Police Department and current Ohio state senator, said "As a former City of Cincinnati police officer of 27 years, spending the bulk of those years in patrol and investigation, I know firsthand that some officers engage in profiling by using minor equipment violations as a pretext for other investigatory stops." He also said "I can't recall ever in my 27-year career issuing a citation for one plate. Most of my law enforcement colleagues in the urban core would agree that it's very limited in its enforcement. I am of the opinion that unenforced laws should be removed from the books." Getting rid of the front license plate as part of the police reform effort would certainly be a welcome move.

Another unarmed man, Christopher Ballew, was viciously beaten in 2017 with a baton and fists by members of a now-disbanded Pasadena, California gang unit after he was pulled over on the pretext of lacking a front plate. Mr. Ballew suffered a broken leg and several cranial contusions after the officers slammed his head into the pavement. Mr. Ballew has never been charged with any crime related to that incident, and the Pasadena Police Chief resigned as a result of it. Gut-wrenching videos of the beating are viewable on the internet, and a federal lawsuit is ongoing. This incident undeniably shows how the front license plate mandate is used as cover for abuse of power - the officers who pulled over Mr. Ballew did a U-turn to follow his car, despite not being tasked with traffic enforcement and being in an unincorporated area outside of their own geographic jurisdiction.

Victims of the front license plate mandate include distinguished and well-respected members of society, much like yourself. Take the case of former Illinois Deputy House Majority Leader Arthur Turner Sr., a 69-year-old with a gentlemanly demeanor. He was pulled over in August 2020 for not having a front license plate, then put in tight handcuffs, carted off to a Chicago Police station and locked up in a jail cell. Ironically, he was wearing a shirt that read "Friends of Chicago Police", which he recalls putting on "just in case this old car breaks down on me, you know, and I have to deal with a suburban cop, I want them to know that I'm a friend of law enforcement". He further recounted: "I kept telling the police officer that the handcuffs were on too tight. That they were really hurting my wrists. I explained to her that I represented the area for 30 years in the Legislature when we drove by

my old office. And I said that I was certain that I wasn't wanted for anything, could she double check her information?" He was released hours later with an apology and has since required the attention of an orthopedic specialist for his injured right wrist. If this can happen to someone as reputable as Deputy Majority Leader Turner, it can happen to anyone. Let's ensure that the front license plate mandate can never again be used to harass the residents of our state and will never again trigger the horrible sequence of events described in these and countless other testimonies.

Beware of corporations that cynically and out of complete self-interest push to artificially double the number of license plates issued for every car in order to sell expensive components such as reflective sheeting that are used in the manufacture of license plates, in the process breaking our state's coffers while lining their own pockets with money from taxpayers and motorists. The money saved by the state when forgoing the second (front) plate is a lifeline to critical infrastructure projects that provide vital services to our citizens. The savings will minimize disruption to these services while at the same time not further overburdening our taxpayers.

The budget is an excellent vehicle (pun intended!) by which to eliminate front plates - every special interest, including the surveillance lobby, wants money for the pet projects on their wish list, but when the money runs out, they'll just have to do without them (i.e. without the front plates). When the budget cuts occur, the surveillance lobby will be only one of many spoiled brats throwing ultimately fruitless temper tantrums over lost funds, but the tantrums of the other special interests will happen at the same time, drawing attention away from and minimizing the clout of the surveillance lobby.

There is an increasing appreciation among state administrators of the advantages to switching to a single license plate, and a growing momentum to eliminate the front plate. The Governor of Ohio has recently signed a bill requiring a single license plate on the rear of vehicles, thus making Ohio the 20th state in the nation to ditch the front plate. Similarly, the Canadian province of New Brunswick, which borders Maine, also got rid of front license plates last summer.

Laws are enforced just fine in the 20 states with a single plate, and it feels totally normal for the people who live there, including for police officers. Even in Alaska, where there have always been quite a lot of out-of-state cars driving around, LEOs are already somewhat accustomed to relying on the rear plate for identification. For instance, people never give it a second thought when they see a U-HAUL truck, but pretty much none of them have a front plate, because they are registered in Arizona, which is a single-plate state.

There is absolutely no excuse for Alaska to continue requiring duplicate license plates. Money and natural resources will be conserved when a single plate is produced and delivered to car owners. There is an ever-accumulating amount of gas that is burnt up needlessly when all the vehicles lug around the extraneous front license plates wherever and whenever the vehicles travel. The aluminum in the plates goes to waste as they are thrown into landfills. Gas and aluminum are non-renewable natural resources that we will never see again. The squander of these valuable assets caused by the mandate for a front license plate represents a loss of money and a harm to the environment, at a time when we should be conserving both.

You might hear the fake claim that manufacturing duplicate license plates for each vehicle is needed to give job training to prisoners. This argument is disingenuous in so many ways: firstly, there are dozens of useful metal trinkets they could be making instead. Secondly, they will still get some of the same training making a single, rear plate. Thirdly, putting the needs of prisoners before the needs of drivers is like putting the cart before the horse; it's like saying we need to make a quota of guillotines to cut off X number of heads or else the poor prisoners won't get to learn woodworking and blacksmithing skills!

Now is the time to implement common sense cost-saving measures such as the elimination of front license plates. If we don't take action now, our state is going to suffer: state employees may need to be furloughed or laid off, salaries may be cut, pensions may go unpaid, and citizens may lose access to vital services.

In this precarious financial environment, it is more important than ever to trim the budget fat and ensure our state's fiscal health in the years to come. By making common sense changes such as

getting rid of front plates, we will be preparing our state for a future when the tax revenue starts to dry up due to the crisis. It is our duty to ensure that our state is prepared to withstand whatever dire circumstances it may confront. I therefore plead with you to support standalone bills and revenue-saving measures in the budget that eliminate the front license plate.

I would like to end by expressing my heartfelt appreciation for all the hard work that you are putting into improving the lives of the people of Alaska. Your support of making Alaska the 21st state in the nation to require a single license plate would mean a lot to me and countless other Alaska drivers!

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the sender.

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: HB 166, Requiring One Rear License Plate in Alaska

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Kevin,
Thank you bringing the bill to our attention. As a fellow Airline Captain and small business owner of a European Auto Repair station, I value the cost savings of one license plate, I am in favor of passing house bill HB166.
Regards,

Owner - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Not requireing front license plates

As I see it in the states , Many do not require a front license plate , in fact some car manufacturers do not have provisions for a front plate on their vehicles.

I do support to not require nor issue a second vehicle plate.

Regards [REDACTED]

Anchorage

New Outlook Express and Windows Live Mail replacement - get it here:

<https://www.oeclassic.com/>



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www.avast.com



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Website: www.sema.org

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCabe
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 430
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SEMA support for HB 166

Dear Representative McCabe:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to thank you for the introduction of House Bill 166, which would allow for the issuance of only a single, rear-mounted license plate for motor vehicles.

Representing the \$46 billion specialty automotive industry, SEMA is a trade association made up of approximately 7,500 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 10 in Alaska, that manufacture, market and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including appearance, performance, comfort, convenience and technology products for motor vehicles.

Many late-model vehicles (including the recent Camaros, Mustangs, Corvettes, Teslas, and certain imports) are manufactured to exclude a mounting bracket for a front license plate. Many historic vehicles and street rods were similarly manufactured. HB 166 would protect the aesthetic contours of these vehicles and relieve vehicle owners of the burden and expense of having to create unsightly mounting holes on bumpers. In addition, this bill would save money, conserve resources, and bring Alaska in line with other states that are moving to a single plate requirement.

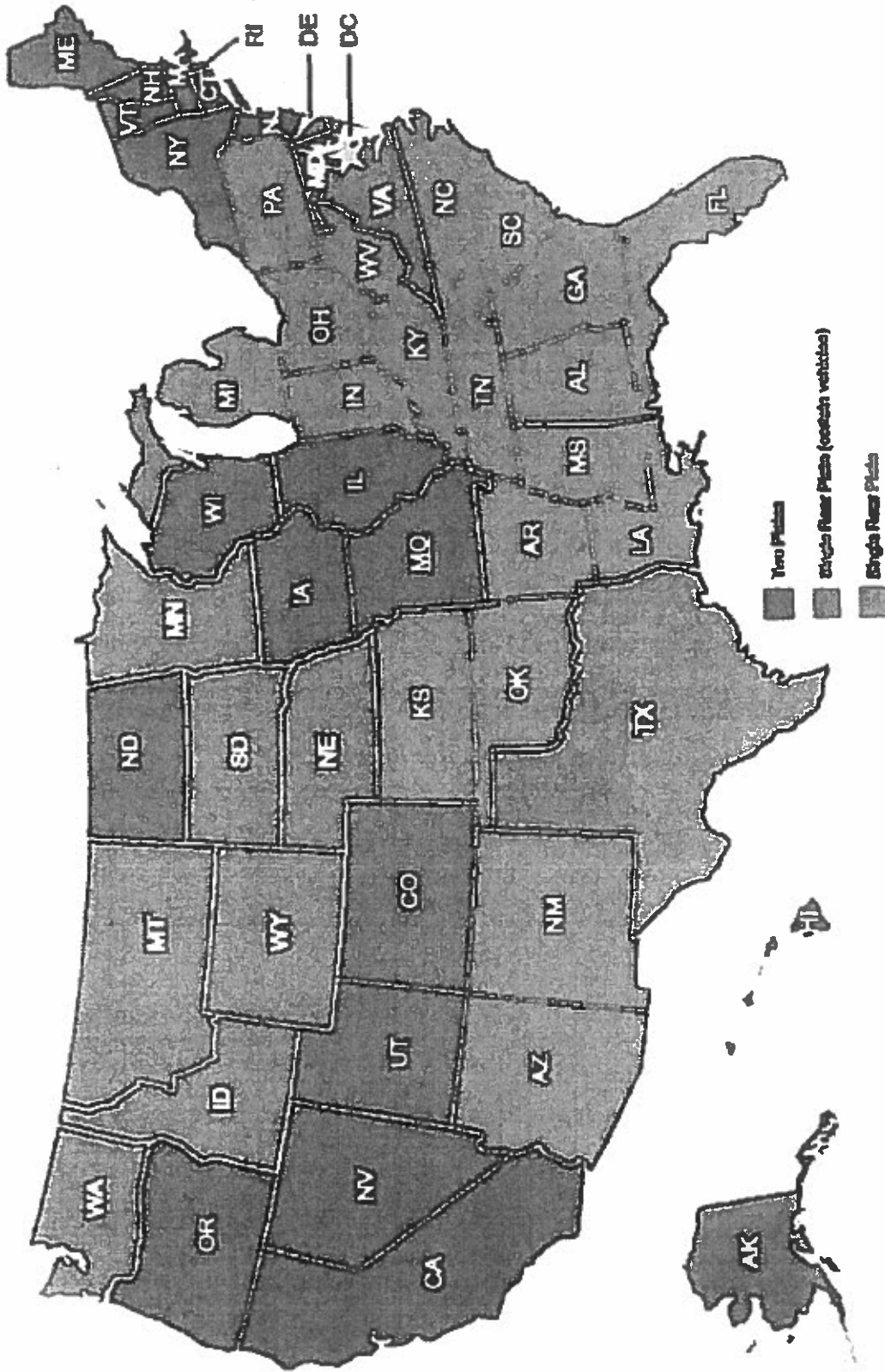
If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at christianr@sema.org.

Sincerely,

Christian Robinson
Director, State Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association

CC: House Transportation Committee

Proud of dedicated service to the industry since 1963



The following information is posted here as an informational resource. State laws are subject to change, and it is important to consult the current statutes and regulations in your state to ensure accurate information. You should not rely solely on the following information, and SEMA disclaims any responsibility for damages that arise out of reliance on the information. If you have further questions, please contact SEMA Action Network at san@sema.org.

States requiring a single rear plate: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

States allowing a single rear plate for certain vehicles—details below: Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming.

States requiring two plates: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Washington D.C.

**Alaska Auto Dealer Association
Po box 201305
Anchorage AK, 99520**

Letter of support for HB166

4/19/2021

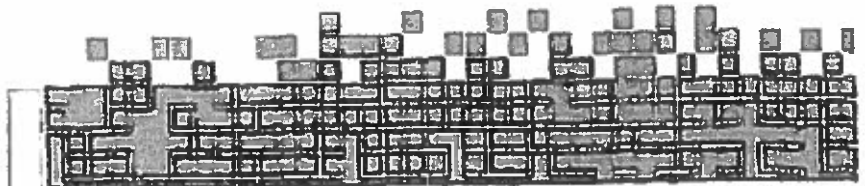
Dear Rep McCabe,

The AADA (Alaska Auto Dealer Association) membership consists of Alaska's new auto dealers and some larger used auto dealers. Details are available on our website www.alaskaautodealers.org. The AADA wants the legislature to know we support HB166. The front plate law is cumbersome to accommodate due to plate placement effecting safety radar systems, cooling, new bumper styles and electric vehicles.

Sincerely,

Tim Toth

AADA board member
General Manager
Kendall Toyota/Lexus of Alaska
907-257-3802
timtoth@kendallauto.com



Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:48 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: House bill 166

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good evening representative McCabe,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Anchorage. I just wanted to send my support for your House bill 166. As a licensed driver who spends most of his time in his vehicle, I will say that something as small as a front license plate can be a big inconvenience. Not only aesthetically, but vehicle performance-wise as well. I work hard for a living and a portion of my income every month goes towards my truck. I take pride in how my vehicle looks and a bright yellow front license plate on a shiny clean truck is quite an eyesore. Not to mention, to keep a vehicle running optimally the engine needs maximal airflow. A front license plate mounted to the intake vents on the grill of a vehicle drastically reduces this airflow. Furthermore, if front license plate requirements are an issue of law enforcement's ability to identify vehicles, One license plate on the back with marker lights illuminating the plate numbers is ample for law enforcement to do their job, any more than that is purely overreach. All of these points along with the fact that the state will save money cutting the number of license plates issued in half, while keeping registration fees the same, make House bill 166 a win for our state, citizens, and government alike.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe; House Transportation
Subject: HB166

To whom it may concern,

I fully support the bill to remove the requirement for the front license plate on vehicles in the state of Alaska. As someone who has had a front license plate stolen in the past it is my understanding that this is a vector for thieves to avoid getting caught with stolen cars.

Thank you for your consideration

[REDACTED]
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Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Front license plates

I fully support removing the requirement for a front license plate. In my opinion it is not a useful tool any longer and given the fact it will reduce state spending I am all for it. Thank you

[REDACTED]

Angela Stephi

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Monday, April 19, 2021 11:39 AM
House Transportation; Rep. Kevin McCabe
HB166

I would like to express my support for HB 166. Alaska should do away with the requirement for a front license plate. The changes in automotive technology that places sensors behind the front bumpers or grills that provide for brake and lane warnings shouldn't be impeded by a front license plate. Many car companies are also doing away with the mount for front license plates. In a state where roads have to be sanded for a significant portion of the year, which slings mud over the front of vehicles rendering the reading of the front plate almost impossible, it makes absolutely no sense to have this as a requirement. Lastly, I would think that the state would be able to save some money by only having to print 1 plate instead of 2. If you can pass some of that saving on to the public, we would appreciate it as well. I give my full support to the passing of HB 166.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Big Lake, AK

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Angela Steph

From: Kevin McCabe <kevinj.mccabe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Fwd: License plate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

All The Best
Kevin

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 19, 2021 at 12:30:53 AKDT
To: Kevin McCabe <kevinj.mccabe@gmail.com>
Subject: License plate

I support not having a plate on the front of my vehicle.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: In FAVOR of HB 166

I am in favor of HB 166 to remove the requirement for 2 license plates on your car.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645
[REDACTED]

Angela Stephl

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: HB 166 No Front License Plate!

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

No front license plate. You have my support for elimination of the front license plate.

My XK8 Jaguar does not have a place to put a license plate, and would ruin the pristine front Jag nose with drilled holes and blocking the airflow!!

[REDACTED]

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Rep. Bart LeBon; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Josiah Patkotak; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Ronald Gillham; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. James Kaufman; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Ken McCarty; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. DeLana Johnson; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Mike Prax
Subject: Support HB 166 One License Plate Per Vehicle
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please support this bill.

Ideally AS 28.10.155(a) would be amended to remove the words "the vehicle is at least eight years old and"

As well

Thanks!

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Support of HB 166

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greeting Representative McCabe,
I'm writing in support of HB 166.
Thank you for your time on this matter.
Best regards,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:20 AM
Subject: HB 166

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I ask that you support HB 166

HB 166 is a bill to remove the requirement for a front license plate.

Front plates mounts are slowly going away on new cars as they interfere with airflow as well as the sensors, often located behind the front bumpers or grills, that provide for braking and lane warnings.

Drilling into these bumpers and installing an aftermarket front plate holder can affect those sensors.

This is smart government

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Angela Stephl

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: HB166A

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Kevin,
Sign me up as supporting your bill concerning license plates in the state of Alaska. It is a tough job you are doing, and I
admire your commitment.

[REDACTED]

Angela Stephl

From: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Angela Stephl
Subject: FW: Juneau Update

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe <Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: Juneau Update

I support HB 166, Kevin. Thanks for your diligent work! Keep on working for our PFD.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Angela Stephi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Cc: Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Support HB 166

Please support HB 166 which would reduce State expenses by eliminating the requirement for front license plates on motor vehicles. It makes both fiscal and practical sense.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

5 February 2022

Representative Kevin McCabe
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative McCabe:

Thank you for your sponsorship of HB 166 yielding \$332,000 per year in much needed state savings. I commend your efforts to responsibly restrain unnecessary spending to streamline state services with such a commonsense approach.

Too often our elected officials succumb to shell game theatrics, cutting direct services while creating additional and frivolous highly paid positions, saving nothing, and, in some instances, spending more. Thank you for finding a practical way to reduce spending, and find savings, without negatively impacting essential state services.

Further, I appreciate our recent discussion, where you assured me that law enforcement considered this change no hinderance to their duties, which I had initially questioned.

I appeal to the Alaska legislature to adopt this legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Resident - Fairbanks, AK