

DATE: February 4, 2003

TO: Senate Transportation and Economic
Development Committee

FROM: Kelly Taylor

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 187

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Transportation requested this bill to bring Oregon into compliance with federal law that prohibits issuing hardship or probationary permits to drivers of commercial vehicles.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

SB 187 repeals the provision for drivers with commercial driver licenses (CDL) to obtain hardship or probationary permits for driving commercial motor vehicles, when their regular driver license has been suspended or revoked. A hardship or probationary permit is a license with restricted driving privileges.

Currently, Oregon law allows hardship or probationary permits to be issued to a driver with a CDL for on-the-job driving of commercial motor vehicles while the driver's regular driver license is suspended. This provision is available only if the driver's privileges to operate commercial motor vehicles are not suspended or revoked.

Repealing this provision will bring Oregon into compliance with federal laws. Under recently enacted federal laws, states cannot grant commercial driving privileges as part of any special licenses or permits, including hardship and probationary permits when a driver's regular driving privileges are suspended or revoked. States that fail to comply with the federal law risk losing federal highway funds.

SUMMARY

SB 187 will bring Oregon into compliance with federal laws and eliminate the risk of losing federal highway funds. I ask the committee to support the bill.