



# Representative Chris Tuck

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Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

## House Bill 26: Confining Vehicle Loads

### Sponsor Statement

House Bill 26 seeks to improve safety on Alaska's roadways by requiring contractors to cover their loads when supplying sand, gravel, rock, or similar materials to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for highway construction projects.

The crime of failure to contain or confine a load is stipulated in state law with requirements to cover most loads on Alaska's roadways (Sec. 28.35.251). However, there are exceptions, including vehicles carrying sand, gravel, dirt, rock, or similar materials. Those vehicles may contain their loads by covering them or with at least six inches of freeboard around the entire perimeter of a load.

House Bill 26 calls on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to require contractors providing loads of sand, gravel, rock, or similar materials to take the extra precaution of covering their loads to prevent debris on Alaska's roadways, rather than relying on freeboard as a means of containment.

Taking the extra precaution of requiring contractors working for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to cover loads of sand, gravel, rock, or similar materials is warranted given Alaska's short construction season, which coincides with the state's busy summer tourism season when roadways are more heavily traveled.

Nationally, debris on roadways caused more than 200,000 crashes between 2011 and 2014, according to an August 2016 report from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Those 200,000 crashes resulted in 500 deaths and 39,000 injuries.

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