



April 9, 2019

Senator Chris Birch
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 80, Initiative Severability

Dear Senator Birch:

The Alaska Chamber supports Senate Bill 80.

The Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing more than 700 businesses, manufacturers, and local chambers from across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

We believe that SB 80 is required to maintain the integrity of the signature gathering process for a ballot measure. Once a voter signs their name to specific ballot measure language, their support should be applied only to the exact language to which they lent their name. If any court or courts decides to alter or remove language from the initiative, it cannot be assumed that voter support remains. Should a court sever language from a proposed ballot measure, it should be mandatory that initiative proponents go back and ask voters to support the revised language that would actually appear on the ballot. As such, we support this legislation and applaud your effort to correct a deficiency that has been overlooked in the ballot initiative process.

We also believe SB 80 will result in fewer protracted legal battles once ballot measure proponents understand that should any section of their initiative not pass constitutional muster, they would be required to revert to the signature gathering stage of the process. This should result in more carefully crafted ballot measures being proposed at the outset, which means a smoother, more predictable process for all parties, whether they support or oppose the ballot measure in question.

In summary, we support SB 80, and appreciate the opportunity to represent our membership's view on this important topic.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Fogle'.

Albert Fogle
Vice President



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