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Verizon Wireless
Yukon Title Company

May 9, 2019

Re: Oppose Initiative Severability

Dear Co-Chair Fields, Co-Chair Kreiss-Tomkins and Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports SB80 as it was originally introduced on March 6, 2019. Initiative petitions ask voters to make simple yes or no decisions about complex issues without subjecting them to detailed expert analysis. Changes in the initiative process should produce better public policy in a comprehensive and balanced manner equally benefiting both voters and the legislative process.

Severing an initiative petition after a court finds a provision unconstitutional could allow an initiative to go before the voters even though it is substantially different from the initial version supported by public signatures and reviewed by the legislature. Requiring the Lieutenant Governor to reject the entire initiative petition in these cases will ensure a more rigorous review process for initiatives before they go before the voters.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Marisa Sharrah

Marisa Sharrah
President/CEO

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Dean

Rebecca Dean
Board Chair

CC: Senator Chris Birch