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STERLING INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY
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February 22, 2015

Honorable Representatives
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

House Bill 9 Private Investigators

Honorable Representatives:

I have been working as a private investigator in Alaska for the last twenty years, but started my career several years earlier in Oregon as a surveillance investigator. I do not have a storied background like many of my colleagues, but have worked cases for State and Federal agencies, as well as countless law firms and many of the largest insurance companies. I would easily meet or exceed the PI licensing requirements of probably any state, yet am adamantly opposed to House Bill 9 as it is written.

As a past Board member of **Alaska Investigators Association** for a number of years, I was directly involved with the group's efforts to bring PI licensing to Alaska. For several years, public & private investigators from around the state grappled with how to *fairly* protect the public and our profession. We studied the licensing requirements of other states and devoted countless hours to discussion. Despite our best efforts, I think by default we ultimately adopted the stance "*the marketplace best regulates our profession*", given how few private investigators were working in Alaska at that time.

Having written that, I can appreciate the intent of HB 9. No one wants harm to come to another due to the actions of a rogue individual. However, there are still very few persons working as investigators in Alaska and as several of my colleagues have already addressed in their letters, e-mails and phone calls, HB 9 is fraught with numerous problems. As a matter of fact, rather than I dissect it line by line, allow me to go on record that I firmly agree with the detailed opinions of HB 9 already offered by investigators **Frank Wake, Tres Lewis, Steve Christopher and Mike Miller**. All are well known throughout the state as investigative professionals with the highest degree of integrity, and after reading their opinions I can only agree with their insight.

If the intent of HB 9 is to protect Alaska's citizens, it should not be written to benefit a few while bringing extreme hardship to the rest. Find a way to fairly protect the public and our profession, and most investigators will probably agree with your efforts.

Thank you,

Ronald A. Pickett

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