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March 23, 2009

VIA FAX (907) 465-2070

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: HB 144

Dear Representative Ramras:

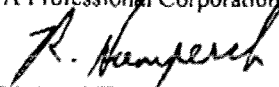
I am writing in support of HB 144. I have worked as a will and trust attorney for nearly 25 years. If House Bill 144 becomes law, Alaska will be the first state to my knowledge that permits a testator to petition the court for an order regarding the validity of his or her will during the lifetime of the testator.

Under current law the validity of the will cannot be determined until after the death of the most important witness – the testator. This gives a procedural advantage to the party contesting the will and in my opinion is unfair. House Bill 144 will level the playing field and will allow a person to testify in court in order to establish the validity of his or her own will. This will allow the court to evaluate first hand the testator's competency and to determine whether the testator was unduly influenced into signing the will.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 144.

Sincerely yours,

HOMPESCH & EVANS
A Professional Corporation


Richard W. Hompesch II

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