

**HOMPESCH & EVANS**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
119 N. CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 400  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-2879

TELEPHONE  
(907)452-1700  
FACSIMILE  
(907)456-5693  
EMAIL:  
hompesch@hompesch.com

RICHARD W. HOMPESCH II  
SUSAN L. EVANS  
MICHAEL J. CAVALIERE  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
BARBARA CORY-HOMPESCH  
ENROLLED AGENT (IRS)

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

RWH