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March 16, 2010

The Honorable Jay Ramras, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska Capitol, Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 409 (House State Affairs Committee)--Support

Dear Chair Ramras:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee to support HB 409, sponsored by the House State Affairs Committee.

AARP believes transparency is critical to government integrity and civic engagement. Openness is a fundamental feature of democracies and governmental operations, including elections, should operate in public view.

The ability of government to respond to the concerns of citizens, promote the public interest, and retain public confidence in its fairness, competence, and relevance is dependent in large measure on adhering to policies that promote and sustain integrity.

Unfortunately, trust in government is extremely low. Whether true or not, government officials and processes are often viewed as more responsive to the concerns of moneyed special interests than those of the general public.

HB 409 will not solve the entire credibility problem. However, HB 409 will get us closer to restoring confidence in government and transparency in elections and campaigns.

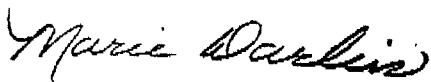
HB 409 will help ensure clarity and honesty in election advertising, including requiring meaningful descriptions of who has paid for an ad.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on HB 409.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator
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CC: Vice-Chair Nancy Dahlstrom
Representative Bob Herron
Representative Carl Gatto
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Lindsey Holmes
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Pete Peterson