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Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:59 AM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Ken McCarty <Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB-234 and HB-245

Chair Kreiss-Tomkins and Representatives of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to you today regarding both HB-234 and HB-245 that will be before your committee for public testimony on Tuesday February 15th, 2022.

I understand how this could be beneficial in allowing individuals to make larger contributions to campaigns in an effort to “balance” some larger contributions from other donors. However, I oppose this bill because it doesn’t level the playing field so to speak.

If anything should be done with campaign contributions it should be adding a cap to the total contributions a candidate can receive. Right now, the sky's the limit. We have seen in Anchorage large sums of money from outside the state come to political candidates or candidates trying to retain their seat through a recall. These outside contributors generally are in the form of companies or PACs and even with this change in statute those candidates who get money from these “influencers” can receive far more from the groups than from individuals.

When Alaskans support Alaskans it comes in the form of individual contributions.

If a political candidate wants to receive money from these large groups, then let them, but there should be a cap. All candidates should only be allowed to raise a set amount of money based on the seat they are running for.

This does not level the playing field, but it requires candidates to be smart with their contributions and limits the impact that outside money could have on an election.

I oppose HB-234 and HB-245.

Thank you

Louis Imbriani