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26 February 2014

The Honorable Gwen Margolis
The Florida Senate
414 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1240 Exemption/Financial Statements - Contract Bidding

Dear Senator Margolis:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding SB 1240, which expands the public record exemption in s. 119.071(1)(c), F.S., for financial statements provided by a prospective bidder in the prequalification process to exempt financial statements reflecting a person's financial activities. This bill is very similar to last year's SB 1152, which we opposed. Like last year, we believe SB 1240 is bad public policy in that it virtually precludes any opportunity for public oversight and accountability, and we respectfully suggest the bill be withdrawn from further consideration.

We have attached our previous letter to you regarding SB 1152, which outlines in greater detail our issues with this kind of expansion to the exemption.

If you have any questions, or if we can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

cc: The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, The Florida Senate
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association