



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Dane Eagle

District 77

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March 9, 2015

Ms. Barbara Petersen, President
First Amendment Foundation
336 East College Avenue, Suite 101
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Petersen,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding HB179. While we appreciate the concerns expressed in your letter, there is in fact overwhelming evidence of email addresses being used to perpetrate fraud. There have been many articles and press releases illustrating the growing evidence that email addresses are being utilized more and more by individuals who prey on unsuspecting citizens through egregious phishing expeditions.

These articles are not just anecdotal evidence, but example cases of real phishing scams perpetrated through email. Frankly, we do not have the luxury to wait for taxpayers to be exploited when we have the opportunity to be proactive.

Unfortunately, the laws you cite are not targeted specifically to the protection of taxpayers, and I respectfully disagree with your position. HB 179 is a very narrowly tailored bill that exempts only those emails tied to taxpayers' sensitive financial and other tax information. This bill does not infringe on taxpayers' constitutional rights, but protects taxpayers' rights as required by Florida law. As a representative of constituents in my District, I have a duty to take measures to prevent fraud, and this bill does exactly that. HB 179 sets a healthy precedent of the Legislature taking action to protect taxpayers from unwarranted intrusion into their private financial affairs. We must not sit idly by while fraudsters increasingly prey on our citizens.

Thank you again for your letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions, comments, or concerns. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane Eagle". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Dane Eagle

cc: The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives

Committees:

*State Affairs Committee; Business & Professional Regulation Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee;
Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Education K-12 Subcommittee*