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January 11, 2016

The Honorable Jake Raburn  
The Florida House of Representatives  
300 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 381 Exemption/State Boxing Commission

Dear Representative Raburn:

We are writing to express our opposition to HB 381, expanding the public record exemption in s. 548.062, F.S., to include all propriety confidential business information provided by a promoter to the State Boxing Commission. It is our position that this legislation is grossly overreaching and lacks sufficient justification to warrant creating an exception to the public's constitutional right of access.

Of primary offense is the purpose of the legislation, as explained by the Senate bill sponsor during the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate Regulated Industries Committee. According to the sponsor's statement, Florida currently plays host to the filming of UFC's television series "The Ultimate Fighter," and because of a delay between the filming and broadcast of the matches, a public record exemption is needed to protect match results from early public disclosure. Yet, Representative Raburn, it is hardly guaranteed an expanded exemption will ensure the secrecy of the information, given a) the spectators present at the filming, and b) the prevalence of smart phones and social media capable of disseminating the results of matches in seconds.

More importantly, this bill defies the constitutional requirement that an exception to citizens' right of access must only be created for instances of demonstrable need and significance. Attempting to amend the constitution to protect the outcome of a fighting match, particularly when other externalities can easily result in release of that information, diminishes the

integrity of the State Constitution.

Instilled in our constitution is a presumption of openness that cannot, and should not, be eroded to accommodate trivial interests. For these reasons, Representative Raburn, we ask HB 381 be withdrawn from further consideration. Thank you for your attention to our concerns. If we may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B.A.P.', with a stylized flourish above the letters.

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association