



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVE WILSON, CHAIRMAN

Senior Editor, *The Miami Herald*

BOB SHAW, VICE CHAIRMAN

Retired Editor

MIKE VASILINDA, SECRETARY

& **TREASURER**

President, Capitol News Service

JON KANEY, GENERAL COUNSEL

Kaney & Olivari

JIM BALTZELLE

Director of Digital Media, Southeast,

The Associated Press

DICK BATCHELOR

Founder and President,

Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc.

BRIAN CROWLEY

Principal, Immediacy Public Relations

MIKE DEESON

Senior Reporter, WTSP-TV

FRANK DENTON

Editor, *Florida Times-Union*

SKIP FOSTER

President & Publisher, Tallahassee Media

Group

GARY GREEN

Deputy News Editor and Digital Director,

Innovation News Center

CAROL JEAN LOCICERO

Thomas & LoCicero

SAMUEL J. MORLEY

General Counsel, Florida Press Association

TIM NICKENS

Editor of Editorials, *Tampa Bay Times*

ROSEMARY O'HARA

Editorial Page Editor, *Sun Sentinel*

PATRICK RICE

Editor, *Daytona Beach News-Journal*

DEAN RIDINGS

President & CEO, Intersect Media Solutions

APRIL SALTER

President & Chief Operating Officer,

Salter Mitchell

PETE WEITZEL

Director Emeritus

CHARLEY WILLIAMS

Past State Board,

League of Women Voters of Florida

Director, Business Development, GEC

January 25, 2016

The Honorable Alan Hays
The Florida Senate
Room 320, Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1364 Exemption/Hunting Licenses

Dear Senator Hays:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding SB 1364, creating a public records exemption for personal information provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on applications for certain licenses. It is our position that the exemption, as currently drafted, is overly broad. We respectfully suggest the language be amended to narrow the exemption, or, alternatively, that SB 1364 be withdrawn from further consideration.

Of particular concern is the breadth of the proposed exemption, which proposes exempting, without limit, any type of information that relates to the identity of an applicant. Withholding all identifying information, however, would render it impossible to verify whether individuals are in fact qualified to safely hunt or operate a boat. The inability to access any identifying information runs contrary to public interest and undermines general public safety.

To better accomplish the stated purpose of this legislation, we have suggested several proposed amendments. (Please see attached document, Proposed Amendments to SB 1364). A narrower definition of personal information would both preserve the public interest at stake and fulfill the aim of the bill's statement of public necessity, which is to reduce the likelihood of identity theft.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, Senator Hays. If we may

be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Andy Gardiner, President, Florida Senate
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association