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May 18, 2009

The Honorable Sam Reed
ATTN: Teresa Glidden
Initiative Supervisor
PO Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Re: Referendum Measure No. 71

Dear Mr. Reed:

Referendum Measure No. 71 is a referendum for submission to the people. In accordance with RCW 29A.72.060, we supply the ballot title and ballot measure summary for Referendum Measure No. 71 (AN ACT Relating to further expanding the rights and responsibilities of state-registered domestic partners).

If this measure qualifies to appear on the ballot, it will bear the following ballot title:

BALLOT TITLE

Statement of Subject: The legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5688 concerning rights and responsibilities of state-registered domestic partners [and voters have filed a sufficient referendum petition on this bill].

Concise Description: This bill would expand the rights, responsibilities, and obligations accorded state-registered same-sex and senior domestic partners to be equivalent to those of married spouses, except that a domestic partnership is not a marriage.

Should this bill be:

Approved
Rejected

BALLOT MEASURE SUMMARY

Same-sex couples, or any couple that includes one person age sixty-two or older, may register as a domestic partnership with the state. Registered domestic partnerships are not marriages, and marriage is prohibited except between one man and one woman. This bill would expand the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of registered domestic partners and their families to include all rights, responsibilities, and obligations granted by or imposed by state law on married couples and their families.

Sincerely,

JAY GECK
Deputy Solicitor General
360-586-2697