Letter from Mayor to City Council arguing against the adoption of Initiative 13, August 21, 1978. Folder 3, Box 6, Charles T. Royer Legal Subject Files, 5274-03. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Your City, Seattle

Office of the Mayor
Charles Royer, Mayor

August 21, 1978

City Council
City of Seattle

Subject: Initiative 13

Honorable Members:

You have before you today an Initiative Ordinance to remove Seattle's ban on job and housing discrimination based on sexual preference. One of the things that makes Seattle such a great city to live in is the diversity of backgrounds, ethnic and religious groups. We have a tremendous variety of lifestyles, and an environment in which people can live as they choose. Gay citizens are active in every part of our community, as workers, business people, neighborhood activists, artists ,and in many other ways.

Our human rights laws were enacted in order to protect individuals whatever their heritage or lifestyle. Those ordinances allow our citizens to live where they choose, and work where they are qualified, free from discrimination on account of race, sex, religion or sexual preference. Unfortunately, as in other cities, our human rights laws are under attack. But I am emphatically opposed to the changes proposed by Initiative 13. Our ordinance in Seattle has been working well; there have been virtually no complaints from landlords or employers regarding the ban on housing and job discrimination for sexual preference. I expect that when it is upheld by Seattle's citizens, our ordinance will continue to operate in a manner beneficial both to gays and to the City as a whole.

I am committed to preserving the integrity of our human rights laws, and to preserving Seattle as a place where all people can live and contribute. I am confident that you, and I hope all citizens, will join me in ensuring that our human rights laws continue to function effectively by rejecting Initiative 13.

Sincerely,

Charles Royer

Charles Royer

CR:hsa

City of Seattle—Office of the Mayor 12th Floor Municipal Building, Seattle, Washington 98104 (206) 625-4000

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