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February 19, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Barker
Chairman House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2337
Judicial Positions
Third Judicial District
Marion County, Oregon

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

As Marion County District Attorney, I wish to extend my support of HB 2337. I applaud the Chief Justice and the Oregon Judicial Department in their effort to enhance the capacity of Oregon's trial courts in meeting the demand of its citizens. Technology and an ever-changing legal environment are reshaping our justice system.

Oregon's Third Judicial District-Marion County- plays a substantial and arguably unique role in delivering justice to Oregon's citizens. The presence of adult correctional facilities, youth facilities, and the Oregon State Hospital are but one unique example of the workload shouldered by the Courthouse in Marion County. Simply being the seat of Oregon government magnifies the roles of our Judges.

HB 2337 will allow the bench to expand its commitment to the public safety system and enhance existing collaborations. Day to day, the Marion County bench plays a critical role in criminal case resolution and necessary litigation.

In my opinion, a single judicial position will exponentially impact our justice system in a remarkable fashion. I respectfully urge the passage of HB 2337.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Walt Beglau'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Walt Beglau
Marion County District Attorney