



Josephine County, Oregon

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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February 8, 2017

Representative Jeff Barker
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
900 Court St NE, H-480
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2605

Dear Representative Barker,

This is a letter in support of House Bill 2605 (New Judgeship for Josephine County). As the District Attorney for Josephine County, I am uniquely aware of the County's need for an additional Judge. Because the County only has four Judges, it takes too long to bring criminal cases to resolution. If the County had an additional Judge, my office would be able to bring swifter justice to crime victims.

In Josephine County it is common for multiple criminal trials to be set on the same day in front of a single Judge. The trials that are not conducted on the date set must be reset to a date often months in the future. If a case is set for trial, it requires my office to subpoena all the victims, civilian witnesses, and Police Officers needed to prosecute the case. When a trial is reset the victims, civilian witnesses, and Police Officers must come back to court on a future date. Further, in Josephine County a single trial can be reset multiple times. This is not an efficient use of time for crime victims, civilian witnesses or Police Officers. It can also be emotionally draining on victims to prepare for a trial, come to the courtroom, and then be sent away and required to go through the process again at a time in the future.

Because you have decades of experience in the criminal justice system I am sure you are aware of this unfortunate process. If Josephine County had an additional Judge cases could be resolved quicker, which would more efficiently use the time of crime victims, civilian witnesses, and Police Officers.

I submit that the State's limited budget dollars would get their greatest utility being spent to provide Josephine County with a new Judgeship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan A. Mulkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RYAN A. MULKINS
District Attorney