

Submitter: Kim Farrar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

February 12, 2024

To: Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the -4 amendment to SB 1576.

The amendment provides County Courts in Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Sherman and Wheeler County with a choice over whether to keep or transfer their probate jurisdiction to the Circuit Courts. As estate proceedings become increasingly more complex, County Courts should have the option to transfer their probate jurisdiction to the Circuit Courts, where Judges have the necessary legal education and experience to handle these cases appropriately. As citizens, we deserve to have our probate cases heard in the same manner as is afforded the other 30 counties in Oregon.

I understand not all County Courts will want to give up their probate jurisdiction, so the -4 amendment provides County Courts with a choice. If a County Court is happy with their current judicial system and government structure, they can keep it. But County Courts should have a choice. The -4 amendment ensures we do. This is not about politics or single individuals. This is about fairness to us all.

As a 50 year resident of Gilliam County, I urge you to support the -4 amendment to SB 1576. And I thank you for allowing me to offer testimony.

Sincerely,
Kim Farrar