

Submitter: Tadd Wetherell
On Behalf Of: -4 amendment
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

Dear Sen. Prozanski and Sen. Thatcher,

Some of our county citizens found out Friday that there is to be a Legislative Hearing (1576-4) on Monday, February 12th to discuss probate jurisdiction in our county. It appears the Gilliam County Court is trying to sneak this through without the knowledge or consent of its citizens. This is a political move at this time and not in our County's best interest. We are in the middle of an election, already having qualified candidates running for Judge, and our County Court is trying to push this through the short session so they can abolish our Judge position. There is NO emergency in this matter, for any of these six counties, and NO need for an emergency clause.

Please consider this before deciding on any quick, irreversible legislative changes for us.... We would like the voters of our county to be informed of this and be able to make this choice, by a vote of the people, and not just by the three elected officials currently serving on the county court.

We would rather our county be left off this legislation completely than for it to go through as proposed.

We can't afford this HUGE decision to be left up to our county court of three while many of our citizens feel that their decisions are always unanimous, with little to no discussion, almost as if these decisions are already made before the meetings, and with no input from the people they represent.

Thank you for your time,

Tadd Wetherell
Gilliam County resident

Cc: Sen. Gelser

Sen. Manning

Sen. Linthicum