



February 7, 2017

House Judiciary Committee
Jeff Barker, Chair

Chair Barker,

One of Washington County's primary missions in service to the public is to provide a coordinated, balanced, efficient and responsive justice system. In order to maintain this balance and efficiency, the Board of County Commissioners and leaders within the Washington County Administrative Office believe it is necessary for the State to add two additional judges to the County Circuit Court during the 2017-19 biennium.

It has been 14 years since the legislature added a Judge to the Circuit Court in Washington County. Since that time our County has grown by over 106,000 people. All indicators lead us to believe that this growth trend will continue into the foreseeable future. This led us to authorize and construct a new Circuit Court courtroom in 2016 to accommodate an additional judge. We also have plans to add another courtroom in our Law Enforcement Center within the next 2-5 years. As the second largest County in the State, we believe that adding both courtrooms and two additional Judges is necessary to keep our justice system efficient and responsive to the demands of a growing community.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners fully support HB 2605 and the addition of two Judges for Washington County during the next biennium.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Andy Duyck".

Andy Duyck, Chairman
Washington County Board of Commissioners