



April 13, 2021

To: Public Safety Ways and Means Subcommittee  
Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair Sollman, and Members of the Subcommittee on Public Safety, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 5012. Deschutes County is desperately in need of additional judges to help citizens exercise their rights to a fair and speedy trial. The population of Deschutes County was Oregon's fastest-growing county over the past decade by a significant margin, adding nearly 40,000 residents, an increase of more than 25 percent from 2010 according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released in March 2020. As populations increase, so too does the need for critical public services that support public interests like justice. Deschutes County residents deserve equitable and expedient access to justice, and they are paying the taxes to support it.

I respectfully request that this committee help to give access to justice for the people of Deschutes County. They have waited patiently for years, and they have waited long enough. The cost of waiting for a court decision can cost families, businesses, and local governments thousands of dollars, all of which are felt more impactfully by the most vulnerable members of our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Senator Tim Knopp  
District 27