

Submitter: Leslie Wetherell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

Dear Sen. Prozanski and Sen. Thatcher,

It has recently come to our attention that there is to be a Legislative Hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 to discuss probate jurisdiction in our county. This movement has been orchestrated by the Gilliam County Court without the knowledge or consent of its citizens. We are concerned it is political and not in the best interest of our County. It is suspicious as 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 to abolish our Judge position. There is no emergency here so please consider removing any clause to that effect.

Before allowing or deciding on any quick, irreversible and possibly quite damaging legislative changes please consider the following:

- We would like the voters of our county the opportunity to be made aware of this major change to our government structure.
- We would like the voters of our county to be able to make this choice, by a vote of the people, and not just by three elected officials currently serving on the county court.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leslie Wetherell  
Former Gilliam County Commissioner

Cc: Sen. Manning  
Sen. Linthicum  
Sen. Gelser