

February 14, 2024

Submitter: Grant Wilkins

Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

**Measure: SB1576-4 (LC 228)**

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair

Senators Sara Gelsler Blouin, Dennis Linthicum and James Manning

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Amendment SB1576-4. Having been a resident in Gilliam County for almost my entire life I am completely shocked and dismayed with this proposed legislation.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> of 2023 Our Gilliam County Court voted to transfer our County Juvenile and Probate jurisdiction, authority, powers, functions and duties on to the Circuit Courts. With that said the Court heard considerable local opposition to relinquishing this authority to the Circuit Courts but voted to transfer the Juvenile and Probate anyway. (Frontier Justice PAC is also challenging the legality of this action) Sad day when citizens hire Legal Council to have the Gilliam County Court follow the law.

My first main question now is with the Gilliam County Court doing this why are they proposing this **EMERGENCY AMENDMENT SB1576-4 (LC 228)** without ever discussing or having this on Court agendas and open meetings in Gilliam County?

My second main point that I want to make is if changing or altering our County Court structure is the right thing to do then what is the hurry? Specially with the County Judge position and a County Commissioner position election in a few months. Election interference? If this bill is changed as proposed it will allow three members of our County Court to abolish our current County Judge position and judicial functions and change our local County government structure.

The position of county judge and the county court structure provided by the Oregon Constitution should not be allowed to be altered by a quick add on to SB1576. If any County court structure is to be changed it should be only done with a vote from the people of that County.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grant Wilkins