

February 24, 2025

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
900 Court Street NE S-413  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 95

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

This letter is sent in support of Senate Bill 95 and to encourage you to support the same. Hershner Hunter, LLP has been a regional business law firm, based in Lane County, for over 75 years. On average, the firm is comprised of 20 attorneys and approximately the same number of staff. We rely heavily on the Lane County Circuit Court and, put simply, the court and the community desperately need additional judges.

As you are likely aware, the Lane County Circuit Court has not been allocated an additional judicial officer in over 40 years. This is despite the fact that Lane County has grown over 30% during that time. The judges we currently have work extremely hard and, though they are able to serve the community and complete the work, it is often at the expense of evenings and weekends. Put simply, the volume of work for the current bench is not sustainable and an investment in additional judicial officers here is overdue.

Though it probably goes without saying, the type of long-term stress on the bench that Lane County has experienced will result both in fatigue and burn-out of the judges who are currently serving, as well as an inability to recruit others to serve in the future.

We appreciate your service on the Senate Judiciary Committee and, again, ask for your support of the Chief Justice's request for two additional judicial officers for the Lane County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,



TODD R. JOHNSTON

TRJ:sts