

March 17, 2025

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am submitting this letter in support of HB 3180 on behalf of Hillsboro Law Group PC, an eight-attorney general practice law firm. Our practice includes a four-attorney contract for handling public defense cases, as well as substantial family law and probate practices. Our attorneys thus spend significant time working in the courthouse in Hillsboro.

The legal system in Washington County would benefit greatly from a modern courthouse that reduces stress on litigants, attorneys, and courthouse staff. The deficiencies in the current courthouse contribute to the difficulty in attracting and retaining talented attorneys willing to handle public defense cases. A new courthouse is crucial to beginning to address the public defense crisis in Washington County.

The existing facility is overcrowded, with limited space for courtrooms, administrative offices, and waiting areas. A new building should provide adequate space for both the public and the staff, ensuring that legal proceedings can be conducted in a timely and organized manner. This would reduce delays and help alleviate the strain on the system, allowing cases to be resolved more efficiently. I also believe that a modern and efficient courthouse is necessary to support continued economic development in Washington County for years to come.

Beyond practical considerations, the construction of a new courthouse would also serve as a symbol of the community's commitment to justice, fairness, and equality. It would stand as a visible testament to Washington County's investment in the rule of law and the rights of its citizens. Moreover, such a project would provide a substantial boost to the local economy by creating construction jobs and generating ongoing employment opportunities for courthouse staff, legal professionals, and support personnel.

Thank you for consideration!

Sincerely,



Grant R. Burton, President
Hillsboro Law Group PC