



House of Representatives State of Idaho

**House Judiciary, Rules, & Administration Committee
Rep. Greg Chaney, Chairman**

March 30, 2022

Speaker of the House Scott Bedke
Idaho House of Representatives
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0038

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As you know I co-sponsored H782 relating to the Judicial Council. Today that bill was vetoed. In the accompanying letter, Governor Little called for collaboration between the legislative and judicial branches in crafting future “modernization” of the judicial council. I am writing to echo the Governor’s remarks.

On February 28, 2022 Chief Justice Bevan requested the same collaboration of which Governor Little spoke. The Chief Justice sent a letter inviting the House and Senate to each provide the names of two persons to sit on a multi-disciplinary study group, or “blue ribbon commission,” to look at the issue of judicial recruitment, retention, and appointment more closely in the interim with the intention of making thoughtful, reflective recommendations.

While I am proud of the work Sen. Lee, Rep. Moyle, and myself did on this issue, pursuing it further in 2022 doesn't seem appropriate. As noted in the debate against H782, the current process of filling judicial vacancies has been in place for decades. While H782 was the product of session-long negotiation and discussion, the two branches of government affected most by this legislation—the executive and judicial—have each communicated their disapproval of the legislation. As the branch least impacted by H782 I question the wisdom of forcing through a change over the objections of both of the other branches either through veto override or through a separate piece of legislation. Rather, I think it appropriate to pause, take a deep breath, and work collaboratively over the interim with our co-equal branches to be sure that we are modernizing the Council without upending the neutrality and independence of the judiciary.

I encourage Senate Pro Tem Chuck Winder and yourself to each accommodate the Chief Justice's request of February 28 by making the requested nominations. Please let me know if there is anything I can assist you with in making those decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Chaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Greg Chaney
Idaho House of Representatives
Chair – House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee

Cc: House Majority and Minority Leadership
Senate Majority and Minority Leadership
Office of the Governor
Idaho Supreme Court