



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE UNITED STATES
Presiding

HONORABLE ROBERT J. CONRAD, JR.
Secretary

July 30, 2024

Honorable Jim Jordan
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chair:

On behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States, I am writing you in support of H.R. 8666, a bill to amend title 28 U.S.C. § 125(2) to add Moab and Monticello as places of holding court in the Central Division of the District of Utah. I ask that the House Judiciary Committee consider this bill at its next mark-up. The Judicial Conference adopted a position to support this legislation at its meeting on March 12, 2024.

Utah's geography and demographics combine to present unique challenges to the administration of justice. Southeast Utah, where Moab and Monticello are located, is remote from the Central Division's existing places of holding court in Ogden, Salt Lake City, Provo, and St. George. Residents of Southeast Utah called to federal jury duty are regularly excused due to hardship because the travel requirement is so unwieldy.

The addition of Moab and Monticello as places of holding court will provide the district flexibility to fashion solutions to service its remote areas, including the option to adopt a jury plan that would make jury service less burdensome for residents.

The changes proposed by H.R. 8666 are cost-free and the district has agreements with state/county courthouses in Moab and Monticello for the use of their facilities at no cost. This legislation was requested by the District Court in the District of Utah, approved by the Judicial Council of the Tenth Circuit, and has the support of the affected Defender Services and U.S. Attorney's Offices.

Honorable Jim Jordan

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If we may be of further assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us through the Office of Legislative Affairs, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, at 202-502-1700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Conrad, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.

Secretary

cc: Honorable Celeste Maloy
Honorable John Curtis
Honorable Blake D. Moore
Honorable Burgess Owens

Identical letter sent to: Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Honorable Darrell Issa
Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr