



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2003

Senator Carl Levin  
269 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Debbie Stabenow  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Levin and Stabenow:

As members of the U.S. House of Representatives and citizens of Michigan, we are writing you, our colleagues in the Senate, urging you to withdraw your opposition and allow four Michigan judges nominated by President Bush for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals the right to hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

These four accomplished jurists, Honorable Richard Allen Griffin, Honorable David McKeague, Honorable Susan Bieke-Neilson and Honorable Henry William Saad, have served the State of Michigan with integrity, receiving positive recognition from their peers in the legal community and the American Bar Association.

The President has nominated these four judges based on their qualifications and they have the right to fair consideration and a vote. It is unfair to deny Judges Griffin, McKeague, Bieke-Neilson and Saad this right for reasons beyond merit. Taking advantage of rules established for other purposes counters the dignified traditions which serve as the foundation of the United States Senate and our representative government.

American citizens deserve the timely administration of justice. Justice delayed is justice denied. The President selected these nominees more than a year ago yet the Sixth Circuit remains critically understaffed. In fact, the United States Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of Michigan issued a formal letter indicating the severe understaffing in the Sixth Circuit hinders effective prosecution of criminal cases.

If these seats—traditionally held by judges representing the citizens of Michigan—remain vacant much longer, President Bush may be forced to fill the vacancies with judges from states other than Michigan within the Sixth Circuit.

As their elected officials, we should work together to promote a justice system that is timely and fair and ensures Michigan residents are represented by Michigan

dedicated much to their profession and government in Michigan and the citizens who support them.

Sincerely,

~~Frank~~  
Anne Camp  
Pete Hebert  
Paul  
Mark

Van J. Ehler  
Mil Roge  
Candice S. Miller  
Thaddeus A. McCall