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September 2, 2022

**VIA EMAIL:** [dawn.mussmann@nebraska.gov](mailto:dawn.mussmann@nebraska.gov)

Ms. Dawn Mussman  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
1211 State Capitol  
1445 K Street / P.O. Box 98910  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: County Court Judgeship  
12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Dear Ms. Mussmann:

I write to support replacing retired Judge Russ Harford of Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux County Courts in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. I have practiced for 41 years in Alliance. I have witnessed first hand the effect of consolidation of Judges to Eastern Nebraska on this area. Our judges have less and less time to serve the citizens of the district due to increasing workload, increasing time travel for fewer judges and increasing difficulties in scheduling. The waiting time for trial scheduling is increasing, the number of times litigants leave their county for hearings in other counties is increasing, while the available time for the Judge to decide matters once heard is decreasing. All this will be compounded if Judge Harford is not replaced.

There is no way one judge can address the case load for the five (5) northern Panhandle Counties and Grant County. More and more Juvenile proceedings are being filed. The time requirements of these proceedings have increased exponentially and will not decline. Grant County, a Sandhills County which has utilized Alliance attorneys as County Attorney since 1958, is experiencing an increase in its County Court requirements due to drug trafficking of methamphetamine through the County. So are other counties in which I practice. As the Box Butte County Attorney and Grant County Attorney I see the ripple effect of this problem increasing other crimes as well. Box Butte County requires two full days each week for criminal pretrial matters. That alone prevents adequately serving Dawes and Sheridan County, without greatly lengthening delays in the Civil Docket.

I respectfully request that the Judicial Resources Commission recommend replacement of Judge Harford as the sitting Judge for Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux County, Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Terry Curtiss