

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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## LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5090

October 25, 2005

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Minority Leader  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner and Ranking Minority Leader Conyers:


The AFL-CIO urges you to oppose The Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act of 2005 (H.R. 4093) and other proposals to split the U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals into separate appellate courts.

Those unhappy with the composition and certain decisions of the Ninth Circuit have long sought to divide the court in order to create forums that they view as more hospitable to their interests. It would be highly irresponsible for the Senate to accede to their wishes. Dividing the Ninth Circuit for ideological reasons is highly inappropriate, and splitting the circuit would be fiscally irresponsible as well. The current proposal would only exacerbate the federal judiciary's fiscal crisis, which has led to suspension of new court construction and layoffs of court employees.

The chief judge of the Ninth Circuit, Judge Mary Schroeder, and former chief judge Proctor Hug, both have testified about the bureaucratic inefficiencies and problems that a circuit split would create. A bi-partisan majority of judges on the Ninth Circuit oppose splitting the court. Other opponents of splitting the Ninth Circuit include California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, former Washington Governor Gary Locke, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 4093 and other ill-considered efforts to divide the Ninth Circuit. Thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION