

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

November 9, 2005

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Gregg and Conrad:

We understand that the House intends to include a large courts package to their reconciliation bill that will split the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts held a lengthy hearing on this issue October 26, 2005 to debate numerous Senate proposals. The full Judiciary Committee has not yet considered the issue.

The reorganization of appellate circuits is a major policy initiative and would impact the system of justice for millions of Americans. The issue is squarely under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee and any budgetary issues are merely incidental. Accordingly, we oppose including such measures in any reconciliation package.

Sincerely,



ARLEN SPECTER
Chairman



PATRICK LEAHY
Ranking Member