

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS

May 8, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you begin the judicial nomination process, I want to propose an approach that I believe is constructive and will move the process forward.

I have long advocated the appointment of additional judges for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe strongly that North Carolina, as the largest state in the circuit, should have judges on the court. Unfortunately, for the past eight years no nominee to the court from my state has been considered or confirmed by the United States Senate. For example, Jim Wynn, a widely-respected African American judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, was nominated to fill a vacancy on the court in August of 1999. He was denied a hearing.

I am pleased that you agree with me about the need for more judges on the 4th Circuit, and that we agree North Carolina deserves representation on the court. I hope we can also agree that in addition to nominees that you may wish to send to the Senate, at least one of the several recent nominees who did not receive a hearing should finally have the chance to be considered on the merits. I believe this proposal is fair and will give the people of North Carolina the balanced representation on this important court that they need and deserve. I think a similar approach would be effective in filling our North Carolina federal district court vacancies.

I want to continue to work with you to achieve a balanced approach to the judicial nomination process. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Edwards