



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

April 19, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

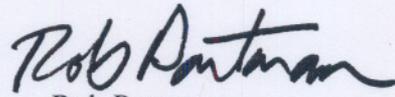
Dear Madam Speaker,

I am writing to express the Administration's support of an overall increase in the base salaries of Article III judges. After discussions with the Chief Justice, we believe that the issue of judicial pay must be addressed to ensure a strong and independent judiciary.

The President agrees with the Chief Justice that as judicial pay continues to decline in real terms, it raises concerns over the ability to recruit from a highly qualified and diverse group of applicants, as well as the ability to retain quality judges.

While direct compensation is only one of many factors that influence the career decisions of Federal judges, we believe that it is too low given current circumstances. We support Congressional efforts to provide an appropriate pay level that would facilitate the continued recruitment and retention of highly qualified and talented individuals.

Sincerely,

  
Rob Portman



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April 19, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

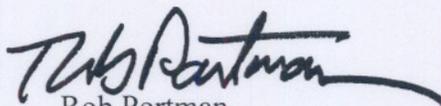
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Sincerely,

  
Rob Portman

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Robert Byrd  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable David Obey  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
The Honorable Pat Leahy  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
The Honorable John Conyers  
The Honorable Lamar Smith  
The Honorable John Boehner  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell