



For Immediate Release:
April 30, 2004

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Renzi Bill Will Remove Arizona from Jurisdiction of Ninth Circuit Court

(Washington) – Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) and Congressman Jon Porter (NV-3) have introduced legislation that will remove Arizona from the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. H.R. 4247, *The Ninth Circuit Judgeship and Reorganization Act of 2004*, will transform the current Ninth Circuit, the largest in the country, into three smaller circuits. One of those, the new Twelfth Circuit Court, will include Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and Montana. Senator John Ensign of Nevada has introduced similar legislation.

“For too long, Arizonans have been held hostage by activist judges out of San Francisco, who have consistently ruled against ranchers, farmers, miners and our timber industry. The Ninth Circuit Court is out of touch with the traditional western values that still hold true in our communities, and the scales of justice must be balanced,” Renzi said.

The Ninth Circuit’s current jurisdiction encompasses nine states and almost 57 million people in the fastest growing region in the country. Explosive population growth in the Ninth Circuit has outpaced the court’s ability to be effective and represent the majority opinion of the people. This situation has resulted in inconsistencies and unfairness in the judicial process.

“This Ninth Circuit Court has obstructed the removal of hazardous fuels from our forests, interfered in our ability to properly manage local grazing lands and ruled against the use of the phrase ‘under God’ in the Pledge of Allegiance,” Renzi continued. **“These contemptuous judgments tear at the moral fabric of our nation, disregard the will of the people and force a corrupt ideology upon our society.”**

This legislation will leave California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit and create a Twelfth Circuit Court encompassing Nevada, Arizona, Idaho and Montana, as well as a Thirteenth Circuit Court containing Alaska, Oregon and Washington. The proposed circuit map addresses current population trends and alleviates caseload overflow.

“The Ninth Circuit is by far the largest federal judicial circuit in the nation and something must be done to manage the caseloads,” said Congressman Jon Porter. **“This legislation is good policy. For far too long, the Ninth Circuit has not been representative of the region in which it serves. By breaking up the courts into two additional circuits, our appellate court system will become more efficient in administering justice,”** he said.

Renzi concluded, **“The people of Arizona would be better served under the jurisdiction of a separate court, one that recognizes our family values and defends our core beliefs. Breaking up the Ninth Circuit will give Arizona a greater voice in the judicial process, allowing for improved administrative procedures and the equal application of justice.”**

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