January 3, 2018

VIA E-MAIL
The Honorable Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore
North Carolina Senate
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger,

The Senate Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting has met over the past two months to consider the important issues of how North Carolina selects its judges and whether changes are needed to the state's existing judicial districts.

The Committee engaged extensively in almost 20 hours of hearings, soliciting input from a diverse group of stakeholders and scholars. These included judges, district attorneys, constitutional and legal experts, public policy commentators and the public. The committee also invited but unfortunately has yet to receive feedback from Governor Cooper. During its work, the committee attempted to address the imbalances and constitutional concerns present in the current judicial districts, and considered what methods of judicial selection best facilitate an independent, accountable and qualified judiciary.

While the committee made great progress on both fronts, it concluded that the process has reached the point where collaboration with the House of Representatives is needed to move toward a consensus proposal and potential legislation. To this end, the committee voted today to recommend that you reach out to Speaker Moore to pursue the creation of a joint select committee. This joint committee would continue work on both judicial redistricting and judicial reform, with the ultimate goal of finding consensus between the chambers on both issues.

We are proud of the work the Senate Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting has accomplished, and look forward to participating in future efforts to ensure a strong judiciary for the people of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Sen. Bill Rabon   Sen. Warren Daniel   Sen. Dan Bishop

cc: The Honorable Tim Moore
Members, Senate Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting