

April 29, 2020

Hon. Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress
Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress
Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lofgren and Representative Sensenbrenner,

We, the undersigned, are 163 sitting, recalled, or retired United States Bankruptcy Judges for numerous judicial districts throughout the United States. There are approximately 350 sitting bankruptcy judges, and collectively the undersigned have handled millions of business and individual cases and adversary proceedings in the nation's 94 judicial districts.

We write to voice our strong support for H.R. 4421 which you have sponsored jointly in the 116th Congress. We endorse venue reform and this bill for many reasons. The venue selection options for bankruptcy cases under current law have led to forum shopping abuses that have disenfranchised local employees, creditors, and parties in interest from participation in bankruptcy cases, undermined public confidence in the integrity of the United States Courts and the bankruptcy process, inhibited the development of uniform, national bankruptcy jurisprudence, and led to inefficient allocation of judicial resources. Passage of H.R. 4421, especially its provisions for elimination of state of incorporation as a basis for bankruptcy case venue, is essential to ensure that bankruptcy cases—importantly, large Chapter 11 business cases—are commenced in districts where debtors maintain their principal place of business or assets, and not in districts that have no meaningful relationship to the business and its constituents.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this important bill.

Sincerely,

S/ Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen (M.D. Fla.)
S/ Hon. Joan N. Feeney (Ret. D. Mass.)
S/ Hon. Carol A. Doyle (N.D. Ill.)
S/ Hon. Sheri Bluebond (C.D. Cal.)
S/ Hon. Madeleine C. Wanslee (D. Ariz.)
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S/ Hon. Diane Finkle (D.R.I.)

S/ Hon. Frank W. Volk (U.S. District Judge/Acting Bankruptcy Judge, S.D. W. Va.)

S/ Hon. David Bissett (N.D. W. Va.)

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