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TESTIMONY OF ED BIDEAU, STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NINTH DISTRICT
TO SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL No. 8

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ed Bideau and I am the new State Representative for the 9th District, which includes Chanute, Humboldt, Iola, Gas and La Harpe in Southeast Kansas. I served in the Kansas House before for two terms in the late 1980. I grew up in Chanute, graduated from Washburn, both undergrad and law school, and I have practiced law in Chanute since 1975, including roughly ten years as county attorney before going to the legislature the first time in 1985.

I am a long term observer of the Kansas Appellate Courts and first appeared before the Kansas Supreme Court when it included the Commissioners and then experienced the creation of the Kansas Court of Appeals, judicial reorganization in 1978 and progress of our legal system over many years. I consider myself a country lawyer running a small town business, oil and gas and agriculture practice.

After giving the issue long consideration, I appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 8, which proposes to give the people of the state the power to change the way that judges for our appellate courts are selected in Kansas. I feel that public debate on this issue and on the proposed amendment to the constitution would be very valuable and that giving the Governor and the legislature more authority over the appointment process would be in the long term interest of Kansas. I would urge your support of Senate Bill No. 8 as a way to start the debate on this issue and as a first step to change in the method of appointment of appellate judges.

Sincerely,

EHB:eb

Edwin H. Bideau III