

ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

C H A R L E S M . C A L D E R O N

ASSEMBLY MEMBER 58TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0058
PHONE: (916) 319-2058
E-MAIL: ASSEMBLYMEMBER.CALDERON@ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV



DISTRICT OFFICE
13181 NORTH CROSSROADS PARKWAY, SUITE 160
CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91746
PHONE: (562) 692-5858
WEBSITE: WWW.DEMOCRATS.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/MEMBERS/A58

March 29, 2011

This letter is in response to the March 28th edition of The Recorder reporting about my willingness to “shelve” AB 1208. I have **never** represented or even suggested to anyone that I was willing to “shelve” AB 1208 and it is cavalier and simplistic to represent my conversations with the Chief Justice in that manner.

I have spoken with the Chief Justice about putting the bill on a two year track, provided there is agreement from her, Judicial Council, and AOC that they will not oppose the bill through the committee process. Of course, this is a big “if”. However, if there is an agreement, I am willing to hold the bill on the Assembly floor while the Chief Justice works with trial court Judges, in good faith, to address their issues.

I have had several involved conversations with the Chief Justice and she appears sincere in her desire to find a solution that will protect the independence and autonomy of the trial courts. In our last conversation the Chief Justice indicated that she was not opposed to making the Judicial Council more democratic in its composition. I provided her with language drafted by the Alliance for a proposed Constitutional amendment as an example of one way she might achieve this goal. While not specific about how to make the Judicial Council more democratic, she appears to be moving in that direction, as suggested in the Recorder article.

I believe the Chief Justice should have the opportunity to demonstrate her vision for the administration of justice and whether it is possible to control the massive AOC bureaucracy. Whether any final solution satisfactory to trial courts is subsequently codified in 1208 is on the table. Of course, if there is no agreement regarding opposition to AB 1208 in committee, and there is little progress towards a final solution, I will continue the course I started when I introduced this bill and agreed to advance the cause of trial courts.

I know that the AOC, under the leadership of Chief Justice Ronald George, may have attempted to emasculate its critics, particularly Alliance judges, through news “spins”, whisper campaigns, and threats. I am committed to this issue. I have no intention of “shelving” this bill (more accurately this issue) under any circumstances other than those where the bill becomes law or a resolution born from cooperation and mutual respect between the Judicial Council and the trial courts has been memorialized in some permanent document.

Charles M. Calderon
Assembly Majority Leader