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FIFTH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

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February 26, 2009

The Honorable Edith Hollan Jones
Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit
12505 U.S. Courthouse
515 Rusk Avenue
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Chief Judge Jones:

As you are likely aware, U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice this week. This followed an investigation, resulting in a plea agreement, where Judge Kent admitted non-consensual sexual conduct with two court employees.

It is my understanding that Judge Kent will attempt to have a disability certified in order to receive pay and benefits as a senior judge. If Judge Kent's claim is granted, it will likely result in attempts to re-open countless cases he has presided over during the past few years. Given the circumstances, it is outrageous that he is asking to retire under a disability exception so that he can continue to draw a paycheck for the rest of his life at taxpayer expense, including while he is incarcerated. I trust you will examine all of these issues carefully before considering Judge Kent's disability request.

If Judge Kent does not resign his seat on the bench, I intend to introduce articles of impeachment immediately following his scheduled sentencing in May.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress