

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee; Thank you for providing an opportunity for our community to present information to you on a matter of great importance to all Kansans.

As a voter and Kansan I urge you to consider the following points. First, I urge the Committees to reject the proposed redistricting guideline that reads "Contests between incumbent members of the Legislature or the State Board of Education will be avoided whenever possible." The guideline appears to be aimed at incumbent protection which may lead to unfairness in future elections.

Similarly, the Committees should see to it that incumbent legislators' home addresses are not included in the redistricting database. Second, the practice of including election results and/or voter registration information in the redistricting database should likewise be ended. The only reason for such data to be available to map makers is to allow them to pick and choose 'safe' areas for inclusion in new districts. This is not fair and square.

Finally, I comment on arrangements for this "Listening Tour". This last minute notice of these hearings sure does not feel like you welcome comment or discussion. In our house we put out the welcome mat very early so that all know we are ready and willing. That is the Kansas way in my opinion. But not for this committee. It feels like a shot gun wedding. That is not a good reputation nor does it put out a welcome mat at all. Likewise, no one, including yourselves, has had an opportunity to see detailed 2020 Census results and assess how our districts must change to maintain equality of population. Plus the restrictions on time certainly do not create a welcome atmosphere....most hearings were or are scheduled for the daytime when folks have to get off work to attend to be an active citizens. At least on election day one can go 7 to 7...your committee made little effort to include a much wider net of Kansans.

The Kansas welcome mat is clearly targeted for a certain population. And read into that as you will I certainly got the message...only come if you are retired or financially well off to hire a sub. I am impressed at the incredible thoughtlessness of this House and Senate Redistricting Committee at the disregard for Kansans. In the end, your committee has shown itself quite distrustful when it comes to drawing maps. The disregard for comment by as many Kansans as possible is evident. Clearly in my opinion the only hope for impartial redistricting is the federal court. Unless your committee can show a remarkable turnaround for earning trust the only option is the court.

The patriotic thing to do now is save Kansans a lot of our taxpayer money and turn the decision making over to the federal court now.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

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