

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Brodsky

Reno County Democratic Central Committee

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504-339-1162

August 11, 2021 – 9:00 to 10:15am

Location: Hutchinson Community College, Stinger Fine Arts Center, Warner Recital Hall

1300 N. Plum Street, Hutchinson, KS 67501

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee & local legislators;

My name is Denise Brodsky, I am here today on behalf of the Reno County Democratic Central Committee in response to the House and Senate Committee on Redistricting call for public input.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for us to speak to you this morning on a matter of great importance to all Kansans. I recognize the limited time, so I will quickly summarize my testimony.

The Reno County Democratic Party believes in fairness and inclusiveness and are committed to putting the people of Reno County and the state first. We question this committee's commitment to the same goal of inclusion and a fair and transparent redistricting process. It is clear by the public statements made by members of not only this committee, but that of other GOP leaders, rushing through 14 hearings within just one week without adequate notice and scheduled at times when most working Kansans are unable to attend, proves one thing; you are more interested in gaining power in your own favor than having meaningful public input of your constituents.

Without detailed 2020 census data, we cannot make suggestions about the composition of fair districts at this time. No one, including yourselves, has had an opportunity to see detailed Census results and determine what changes are required to maintain equality of populations in our community.

Kansans deserve to elect the leaders who best represent their interest, not the other way around. The Reno County Democratic Party stands with our fellow organizations such as the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Reno County Democratic Women's Group and others who make up our diverse 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, and urge this body to keep our communities together versus diluting and potentially disenfranchising our neighborhoods.

This 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District is both rural and urban and has unique needs. Districts should be both compact and contiguous as possible. Major changes in the current makeup of the Kansas Congressional Districts will disproportionately impact our minority and underrepresented communities that are already struggling to have their voices heard.

We ask that you follow up this "Listening Tour" with additional, well publicized & widely accessible opportunities for Kansans to participate in the process and prior to the start of the 2022 session. Only then will you understand what your constituents identify as their communities of interest & fair representative districts.

We ask you to preserve the core of existing districts in Reno County. We urge you to stay bipartisan in the process, avoid gerrymandering & preserve the integrity of this political system and regain public trust in the process itself.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

I have submitted this testimony in writing to the committee staff in compliance with established requirements.