

State of Kansas



Representative Tom Burroughs

District 33

August 12, 2021

Dear Chairman and Committee members,

I am writing to you as a resident of Kansas City and Wyandotte County, but I am also here representing my neighbors and constituents.

We are proud to live in Wyandotte County. Our community is made up of unique diversity and ethnic richness that sets us apart and warrants effective and adequate representation at the state and federal levels. As a proud urban and blue-collar community, we have needs unlike those of our neighbors that would be best served with two dedicated state senators, unlike what we have today. During the last redistricting, the boundaries were adjusted in a way that negatively affected the weight of our representation. The interests of Wyandotte County are better addressed with complete voices versus elected officials who must split their time and resources between economically and racially different communities and community needs. Wyandotte County's population warrants the seven legislative seats it currently has.

I humbly refer to my community as the "Phoenix of the Plains," as we have been totally transformed over the last ten years by a boon in economic development and job prosperity. We are a part of the metropolitan area, where more jobs have been created through economic expansion and highly skilled labor. Over time, more and more of our young people want to stay in the area - their home - largely because of this growth and opportunity.

I would be remiss to not echo the concerns of conferees before me on this trip. I have attended every town hall to date as a member of the redistricting committee and repeatedly heard people express that fairness, transparency, and community equity are their biggest concerns. Furthermore, while traversing the first congressional district, numerous individuals stated they were opposed to putting Wyandotte and/or Johnson County into the first congressional district. **I join them in that sentiment.** This would pit urban and rural Kansans against one other in a way that undermines their right to one person, one vote.

I hope you consider my testimony as we move forward. I look forward to further engaging with you as we hopefully work toward a fair and just redistricting process that includes and benefits Wyandotte County and all Kansans.

Respectfully,

Representative Tom Burroughs, District 33