

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

**From: Deb Settle
President/CEO
NEJC Chamber of Commerce**

To: The Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

The NEJC Chamber of Commerce is asking for your consideration of the following points

The NEJC Chamber represents ten cities that are on the borders of a County line and also a State Line. We encourage business throughout the metropolitan area and believe it is essential to maintain the existing borders as much as possible, especially regarding the 3rd Congressional District. Business can and should be conducted across State and County lines. Furthermore, without detailed 2020 Census data, how can suggestions about the composition of fair districting occur at this time. Federal funding to support neighborhood revitalization is crucial to our cities in the First Suburbs Coalition, which many of our ten cities are located. The NEJC Chamber supports businesses and realizes the importance of our shared regional resources including education, which Shawnee Mission School District is a member of the Chamber, healthcare, and transportation just to mention a few of the resources.

I urge the committee to hold additional town halls after census data is available and Kansans can review that data and offer input. I would encourage that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement.

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, as possible, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation.

I want to thank the committee for considering this testimony. It is imperative that we take all the mentioned concerns into account and realize the importance to maintaining the 3rd Congressional District as it currently is divided and all of the shared metro resources that could be impacted with a redistricting.

Respectfully,

Deb Settle

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