

**Testimony to the House Redistricting Committee
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
State Capitol – Room 346-S
March 5, 2012**

Chairman O’Neal and members of the committee, my name is Dick Carter and I appear before you today on behalf of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

In April of 2011, the Chamber formed a special task force comprised of members of the Chamber Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee, and members of the Riley County Republican and Democrat parties, to address the issue of 2012 Congressional redistricting. The task force met throughout the summer of 2011 and resolved, unanimously, to work to keep the City of Manhattan and Riley County in the 2nd Congressional District.

A representative of the Chamber Board of Directors testified to the Joint Redistricting Committee on July 27, 2011, when the committee convened on the K-State campus; as well as in Kansas City, Kansas, on September 30, 2011. In September, the conferee submitted two (2) proposed maps to the Joint Committee that achieved the charge set forth by the chamber’s task force, while assuring the deviation between districts met the zero percent guidelines. [Although the comments presented at the aforementioned Joint Committee meetings are part of the official record, copies of the testimony, as well as the maps proposed, are attached to this statement.]

The Governing Body of the City of Manhattan adopted Resolution No. 081611-B, on August 16, 2011, in support of maintaining the City and the County in the 2nd Congressional District. The resolution states, among other items, that the region encompassing the City of Manhattan and Riley County is strongly linked together due to Fort Riley, Kansas State University, National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), Animal Health Corridor, economic base, commuting patterns and transportation networks...is best served by remaining in the 2nd Congressional District. [A copy of the Resolution is attached to this statement.]

The Board of County Commissioners of Riley County passed a similar resolution on August 25, 2011 – Resolution No. 082511-30. [A copy of the Resolution is attached to this statement.]

Mr. Chairman, my message is simple – the resolve of the task force was not merely a statement requesting to remain in the 2nd Congressional District, but a strong and unified statement from the greater community based on the following rationale:

- The community has historically been represented in the district;
- the synergies of the ‘communities of interest’ based on the regional economies of the district;
- the missions’ of the military, university research, and area businesses in the district, and;
- the combined significance of the presence of NBAF and the community’s position in the Animal Health Corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views and positions of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Task Force on Redistricting. I would be pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

**Testimony to the Joint Redistricting Committee
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan, Kansas
July 27, 2011**

Chairmen O'Neal and Owens, and members of the Joint Committee on Reapportionment, my name is Fred Willich and I appear before you today as the Chairman of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

My purpose today is to represent the views of the business community that comprises the membership of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as present a position which we believe best serves the larger Manhattan community.

A task force was formed in April of 2011, comprised of members from the Chamber Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee, and a representative from the Riley County Republican and Democrat parties. The results of the task force meetings reinforced the resolve that the city of Manhattan and Riley County should work toward ensuring that residents of these areas remain together in the 2nd Congressional District.

With the establishment of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas, the Chamber believes it is very important for the overall scope of the project to remain in the 2nd Congressional District. While this federal laboratory generally has broad statewide support, much of the detail and staff work has been led from the office occupied by the 2nd Congressional elected official.

In a similar respect, Riley County is considered the western end of the Animal Health Corridor. It is imperative for the state of Kansas and for the Midwest, as well as the United States, that we continue to foster growth and nurture the synergies already at work in the area within this industry. We believe the importance of maintaining a contiguous parcel of these communities (as possible) will be an important factor in developing brand identity for Animal Health Corridor research.

Another key factor is the proximity of Fort Riley to the Manhattan and Riley county area. Fort Riley's impact on the Manhattan community is significant. Many service members and their families live in the immediate (and surrounding) area; hundreds of military spouses hold jobs in the area and dependent children attend schools in Riley county and surrounding communities. Tied closely to that is the importance of also having Fort Leavenworth and the Command and General Staff College in the same Congressional District, especially given the Military Science/ROTC program at K-State.

Finally, one of the factors which suggest the importance of retaining Manhattan in the 2nd Congressional District is Kansas State University benefits greatly from having our Congressional delegate representing us on the Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means Committee is charged with overseeing all reciprocal trade agreements, which have increased significantly in the agriculture sector in the last 15 years. Also, they oversee dutiable goods. Kansas State University invests significant resources to ensuring the ability of Kansan and national

agriculturists to produce products that are safe and legal to export to the world. Having a Congressional representative on the committee helps K-State help Kansas, which – according to the USDA – has been the 6th largest exporting state of agriculture in the last five fiscal years.

We are fully aware of reapportionment issues being addressed in other communities across the state. As the task force refined its position we communicated with other communities and tried to address their specific issues as our maps were drawn. Obviously not every community's issues can be addressed and resolved to their satisfaction. We would be pleased to submit a map with suggested Congressional district boundaries that meet the population criteria for the redistricting process, should the committee desire. However, we know that you will be inundated with a number of maps to review. We simply ask that you consider the significance of the presence of NBAF and the Animal Health Corridor, in consort with a Congressional District that comprises other Regents institutions – whose missions are in part to provide a trained workforce which supports the outlined initiatives above – should remain in the 2nd Congressional District.

Thank you again for your dedication and service to all Kansas citizens. We wish you well and appreciate the opportunity to present to you the position of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Task Force on Reapportionment.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Willich

**Testimony to the Joint Redistricting Committee
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Jack Reardon Convention Center
Room – Wyandotte 1
September 30, 2011**

Chairmen O’Neal and Owens, and members of the Joint Committee on Redistricting, my name is Frank Beer and I serve as the Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee for the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

On July 27, 2011, the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Fred Willich appeared before you at the Manhattan Special Committee Hearing to advocate on behalf of our membership, our strong interest in remaining in the 2nd Congressional District. Our position was determined by a task force which met several times to review and analyze options that would best serve our community and surrounding area. The task force was comprised of members of the chamber, and a representative each of the republican and democrat party. At that July meeting, we were requested to submit a map(s), which would support our reasons for remaining in the 2nd Congressional District.

I appear before you today to submit two (2) maps which we have drawn, that achieve our goal. The first map, entitled Chamber 1, provides continuity as it relates to the military communities in the northeast part of our state. As you will see, the map captures the counties which surround the Fort Riley catchment area, as well as maintains the geographic connection to Fort Leavenworth.

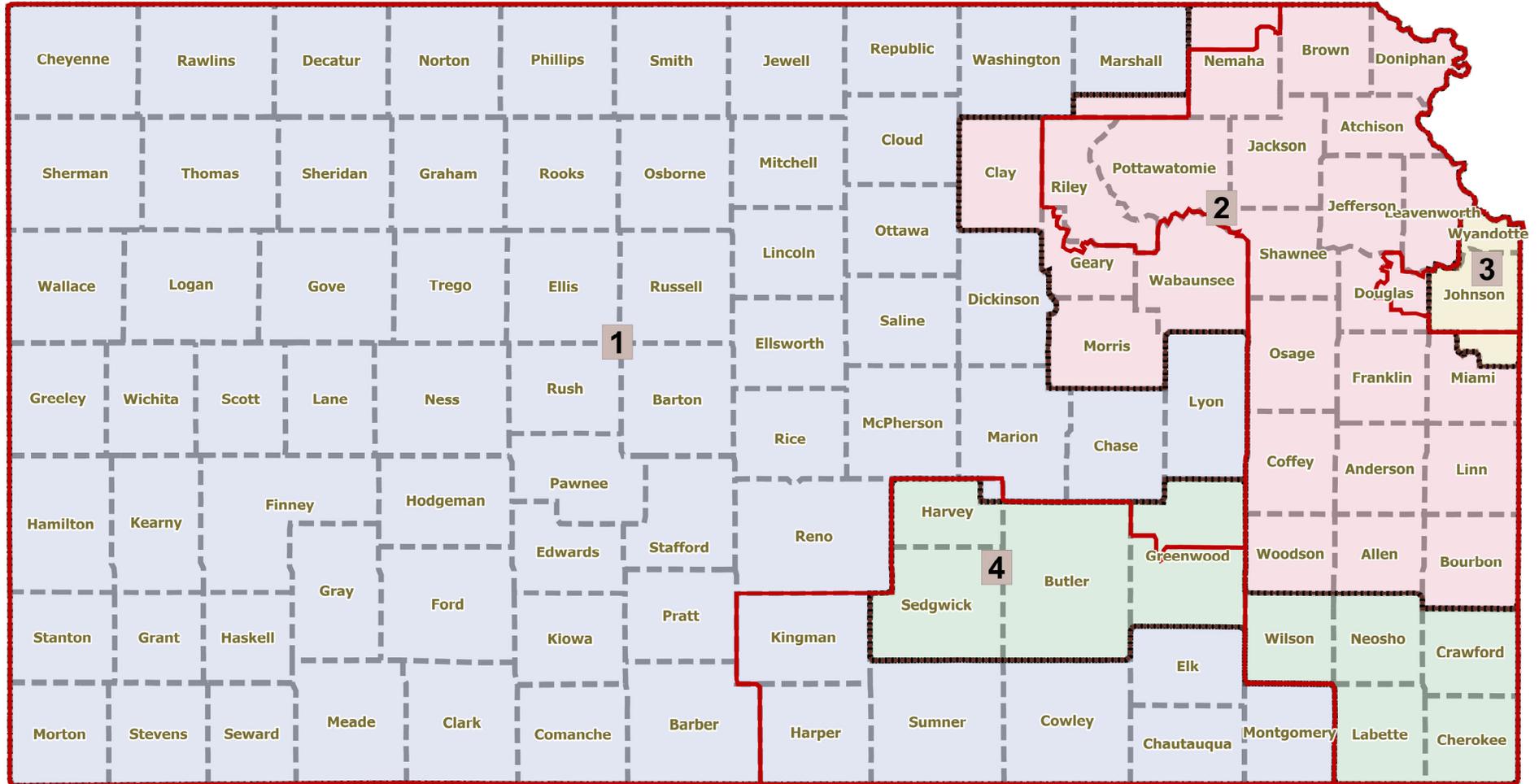
The second map, entitled Chamber A, has also been referred to as a map that recognizes the educational corridor from the northeast to the southeast portion of Kansas. This map would

focus on many of the synergies already in place within the higher education system – Kansas State University, Emporia State University, Washburn University, The University of Kansas, and Pittsburg State University would all be within the boundaries of this map.

The Chamber chose not to place a preference on one map over the other (i.e. Chamber 1/Chamber A), as both achieve the goal of maintaining Manhattan and Riley county in the 2nd Congressional District, as well as capitalizing on the strengths of the communities situated within the district outlines.

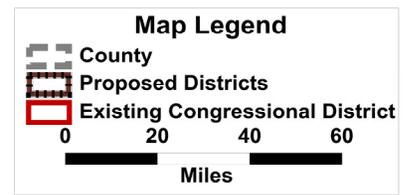
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this very important process. I would be pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Manhattan 1

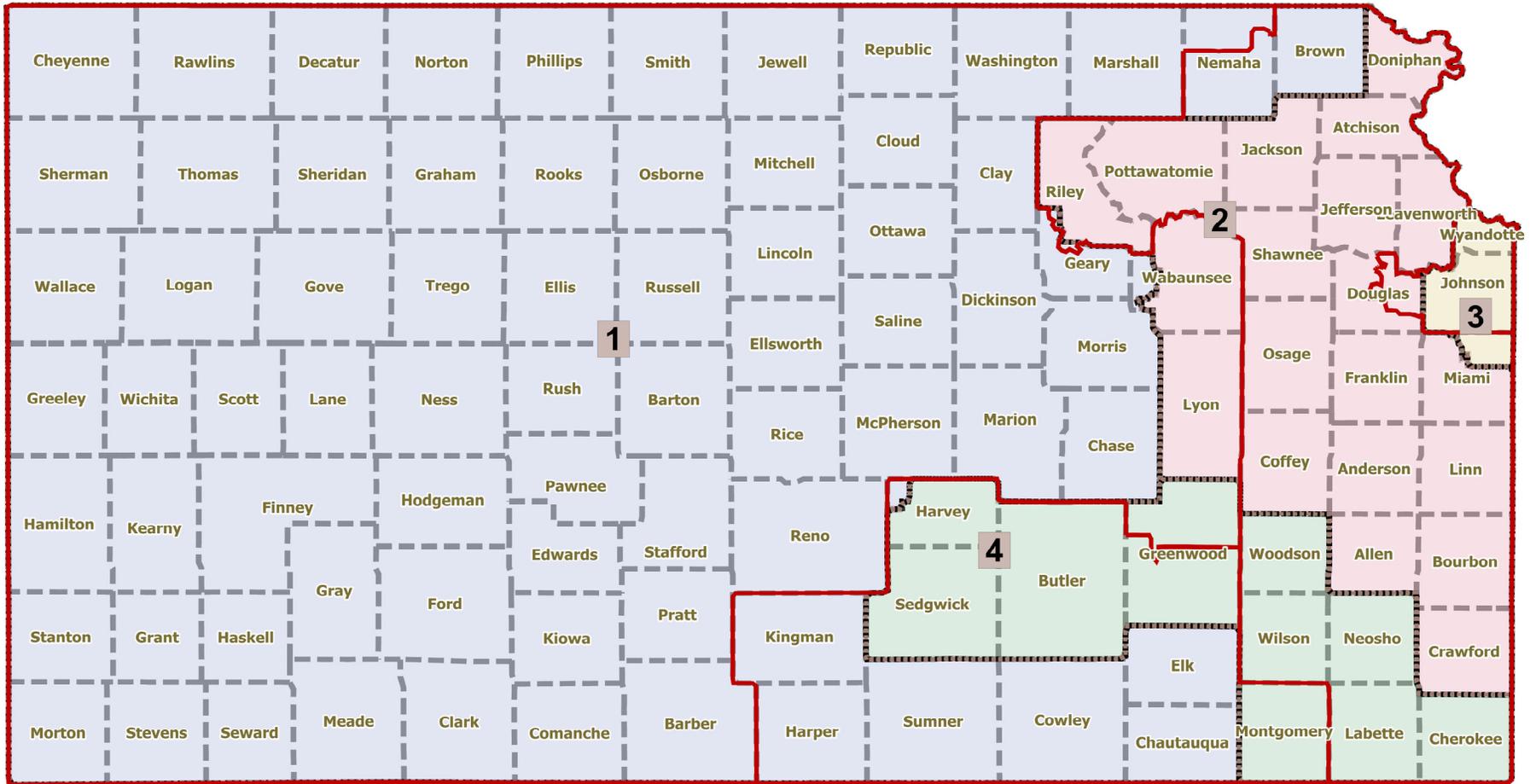


District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation
1	713243	-37	-0.01%
2	713243	-37	-0.01%
3	713275	-5	-0%
4	713357	77	0.01%

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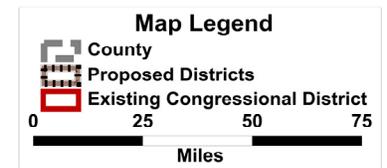


Manhattan A



District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation
3	713272	-8	-0%
2	713281	1	0%
4	713278	-2	-0%
1	713287	7	0%

Draft



RESOLUTION NO. 081611-B

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE CITY OF MANHATTAN AND RILEY COUNTY IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, every ten years, Congressional boundaries are updated per the Constitution of the State of Kansas as a result of population changes from the decennial census; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012 Session, the Kansas Legislature will develop and consider proposed new districts for the State's four congressional seats; and

WHEREAS, a special joint committee of the Kansas Legislature is holding public meetings across the State to gather input on this important issue; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce formed the Task Force on Reapportionment in April 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Task Force on Reapportionment desires for the City of Manhattan and Riley County to remain in the Second Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, the region encompassing the City of Manhattan and Riley County is strongly linked together due to Fort Riley, Kansas State University, National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), Animal Health Corridor, economic base, commuting patterns and transportation networks; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Manhattan and Riley County for the Kansas Legislature to retain the entire region within the same Congressional District; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, THAT: The City of Manhattan is in support of the position that the City of Manhattan and Riley County remain together within the Second Congressional District.

ADOPTED AT Manhattan, Kansas, this 16th day of August, 2011.




GARY S. FEES, MMC, CITY CLERK


JAMES E. SHEROW, MAYOR

RESOLUTION NO. 082511-30

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING RILEY COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MANHATTAN IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, every ten years, Congressional boundaries are updated per the Constitution of the State of Kansas as a result of population changes from the decennial census; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012 Session, the Kansas Legislature will develop and consider proposed new districts for the State's four congressional seats; and

WHEREAS, a special joint committee of the Kansas Legislature is holding public meetings across the State to gather input on this important issue; and

WHEREAS, the region encompassing Riley County and the City of Manhattan is strongly linked together due to Fort Riley, Kansas State University, the National Bio, and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), the Animal Health Corridor, our economic base, commuting patterns and transportation networks; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Riley County and the City of Manhattan for the Kansas Legislature to retain the entire region within the same Congressional District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS OF RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS, that it supports the position that Riley County and the City of Manhattan remain together within the Second Congressional District.

Adopted this 25th day of August, 2011.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS**

/s/Karen McCulloh
Karen McCulloh, Chair

/s/Alvan Johnson, Member
Alvan Johnson, Member

/s/Dave Lewis
Dave Lewis, Member

ATTEST:

/s/Rich Vargo
Rich Vargo, County Clerk

(Seal)