

Testimony to House Redistricting Committee  
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The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

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Speaker O'Neal and Other Honorable Representatives:

I am appearing on behalf of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, an organization with over 2,500 members, 40% of which are in Kansas. Our public policy positions for this year, which were developed through recommendations of our Kansas State Affairs Committee and approved by our Board, request that Kansas legislators make it a priority to keep communities of interests together when redrawing congressional boundaries. In the Chamber's view, Johnson County and Wyandotte County are within the same community of interest.

They are probably more economically interdependent today than ever before. Johnson County citizens are a major part of the clientele at the Kansas Speedway, Sporting KC and the Legends shopping complex. Conversely, Wyandotte County residents are major customers of businesses and shopping centers in Johnson County. Furthermore, many citizens of each county work in the other county. Since preserving a community of interests is one of the traditional tests to constitutionality of a plan, this interdependence must be recognized.

Several of the maps you will be considering put Wyandotte County in the first congressional district. That is of course the district that contains most of the rural areas of western and north central Kansas. Wyandotte County has little in common with those areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.