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I would like to testify before the committee in writing regarding the upcoming redistricting. Fair and inclusive maps are essential to our democratic process. We must prevent partisan map manipulation with the purpose of splitting or concentrating communities of interest. Elections should be a contest of ideas. This is unlikely to occur where the district is not competitive, where a minority voice cannot be heard. This will lead to further polarization not consensus and governance. This is served by districts that recognize real community boundaries, where people live, shop and work. Where they share social, cultural, historic, socioeconomic, regional, transportation, governmental, and geographic interests. If possible it should be simple.

Therefore I would like the committee to consider that the 4th CD be changed to all of Ramsey County, the southeastern portion of Anoka County and eliminate Washington County. I believe that our communities would be better served by these changes. The city of Blaine is in two counties, Anoka County is represented by three Congressional Districts. Let's simplify and possibly make the 4th and the 6th CD's more competitive. The Anoka County portion of the 5th CD (which will become geographically smaller) could be moved to the 4th. Washington County could be added to the 1st CD as it will need to geographically expand.

If this is an acceptable format, please provide this email to the committee with my thanks for doing everything within its power to reach an agreement on redistricting. If not please instruct me on how I should submit my testimony to the committee.

Regards,

Arthur Allen  
Roseville, MN

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Please correct my testimony by changing 1st CD to 8th CD. I apologize for the error. Thank you.

Regards

Arthur Allen  
Roseville, MN