

From: Kathy Kranz
Hennepin County
Congressional District 3
Senate District 50
Bloomington, MN Resident since 1980

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

In 1980 I built a home in a developing part of Bloomington to raise my family after living in Minneapolis. We, like so many others who chose Bloomington to live, loved the inclusive family feel and pride for the safe, expansive, affordable neighborhoods that make up Bloomington and all its opportunity for family activity. Bloomington is not like any of the metropolitan urban areas in terms of population, residency and even infrastructure. We fit well within Congressional District 3 with likeminded outer ring western suburbs and growing rural areas. The residents are here because we are not urban nor experiencing any of the urban complexities that is Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Unfortunately, most of what our District experiences in terms of forced development priorities comes from the determination of the urban focused Metropolitan Council which needs oversight as it is not accountable to checks and balances of voter preference nor does it serve the composition of Congressional 3's outer suburbs and rural areas needs, particularly the residents of Bloomington. For this reason, it is imperative that our legislative representation for Congressional District 3 remain with a voice toward the needs of the communities that reside within it and as an advocate ensuring any outside urban influence and governance from Minneapolis/St Paul enhance what we have built, not harm it.

For example, the Metropolitan Council's projects are urban focused, not conducive to the growth of Western Hennepin County, not workable in our communities and sometimes wasteful, as the case with the SW Light Rail. It costs our residents in value and convenience due to how we are told to develop and what we would have to do to accommodate the SW Rail Line. Bloomington fits best with Congressional District 3 and all its current members in legislative representation. Believe me, I have talked to many residents. Bloomington feels it has a voice with Congressional District 3. It would not have a voice with Congressional District 5 nor would any outer ring suburb to the metropolitan area.

To take any additional action amending or changing the current redistricting methods will be reducing the autonomous footprint of a developing southwestern Congressional district that has worked very well together and availing them little voice in the legislature. If any redistricting needs to be addressed, perhaps Congressional District 3 should be grouped with similar communities in the southern and western suburbs.

For the last ten years, the neutral redistricting has worked well. If a tweak is needed for population, it should be done with very little special interest. Any changes based on subjective opinions and perceptions of fairness and equity other than the simple rules currently in place for everyone's benefit, will not be representative of all areas and will be favoring one over another.