

Madam Chair,

Thank you for allowing me to present my thoughts on redistricting in the state of Minnesota. My name is Tony Till, and I am a resident of Rochester, MN.

The congressional districts around the city of Rochester do not preserve communities of interest. Under the current configuration of our congressional map, vital communities of interest have been split. They should be united in the map that we draw for the next 10 years.

Olmsted County and the city of Rochester are contained within of the 1st congressional district. The city of Luverne, which is hundreds of miles away with few economic or cultural ties back to Med City, is also in the 1st congressional district. Rochester, one of the fastest growing cities in Minnesota and a regional economic and cultural hub, does not really have much in common at all with Luverne.

Yet the city of Pine Island, less than 20 miles away on Highway 52 and filled with people who work and play in Rochester, is in an entirely different district with different representation.

The ties between the communities do not stop there. Students from Olmsted County go to school in Wabasha and Goodhue counties, and the reverse is true as well. You can have the Rochester Post Bulletin delivered to your doorstep in Red Wing. And highways 52 and 63 are crucial corridors of commerce that unite Goodhue and Wabasha counties with Rochester, respectively.

When you proceed to the work of drawing congressional maps, I urge you to consider southeastern Minnesota, including all of Goodhue and Wabasha Counties, as part of the same community of interest as Rochester and draw them into the same congressional district.

Thank you for allowing me the chance to testify.

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