

September 14, 2021

House Redistricting Committee members:

I am writing as a concerned citizen from Lake Crystal, in Blue Earth County and someone who has been involved in Agriculture for over 30 years. I have worked with the Minnesota Corn Growers, Minnesota Farm Bureau and am a reindeer farmer. I am drafting this letter for the House Redistricting Committee to voice my opinion and add that to the others who are commenting when you consider and deliberate on the potential reshaping of Congressional District 1.

I don't believe that dividing up the state into wedges or pie shaped pieces that start from the Twin Cities and spread outward would serve the counties of this district well at all. For the better part of 20 years this district has been largely based on 3 areas of industry: agriculture, medical and rural businesses.

This is a great district with a lot of production diversification:

- Nationally we are #9 for corn production, - #9 for soybeans and #3 for hogs production. It is an intensely strong agriculture area.
- add to that the strength of the medical systems like the Mayo, Gunderson, and Sanford systems
- and then the plethora of unique businesses – from breweries, to cement truck manufacturers, to wind farms, ethanol plants, the largest manufacturer of boat docks, one of the world's leading truck dump body, hoist, and platform manufacturers to list just a few.....
- Southern Minnesota was founded on self-sufficiency and a "can do" attitude

What works and has worked for the district is like-minded people and industry. We should not break that up. I am suggesting that the district needs to remain 95% the same to keep on working well. It would be easier for a legislator to represent an area where people have a similar point of view.

Thank you for your attention to my thoughts

Yvonne Simon