



September 14th, 2021

Chair Mary Murphy
House Redistricting Committee
343 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Murphy and Members of the House Redistricting Committee,

On behalf of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, I respectfully submit this written testimony for consideration in redistricting proceedings before the Legislature and Courts.

Per the latest Census, Otter Tail County is home to 60,081 residents and is a well-defined community of interest that we urge you to keep whole when drawing legislative districts. Otter Tail County is home to 22 cities and 62 townships and is the second most populous whole county in the current 7th Congressional District. Otter Tail County is a diverse county with communities of many different populations and languages spoken across the county. We are a county with a growing economic base, a job center, a tourism center, and regional population center. Our County Board knows that Otter Tail County residents' voice will be stronger with legislative representation that is focused on the unique issues and opportunities facing our community.

Historically, redistricting processes have recognized the importance of keeping Otter Tail County together for legislative districts. Following the 2002 redistricting process and drawing of legislative districts, all of Otter Tail County was included in one Senate District with one House District entirely within Otter Tail County. We believe that a Senate District that comprises the whole of Otter Tail County plus adjacent counties and one House District entirely within Otter Tail County will maximize effective legislative representation for our residents.

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners appreciates your consideration and dedication to a fair redistricting process.

Sincerely,

Leland R. Rogness
Chair, Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners

