

To: The Honorable Chairperson Murphy and the House Redistricting Committee
From: Sandra Larson, Lakeland, Minnesota

Re: State of Minnesota House of Representatives Redistricting Hearings
Date: September 27, 2021

Madame Chair and Committee Members:

My purpose in writing is to provide input to your committee as you work through the State's redistricting process, particularly as it relates to Senate Districts 39B and 39A.

As you perhaps know, in the last redistricting process, the City of Stillwater was split into SD39A and SD39B, largely along Owen St. N and Stillwater Blvd. N., placing some Stillwater precincts in SD39A. These people in Stillwater have thus been represented along with the several communities to their north, of which the most populous is Forest Lake. This has been a grave injustice to those who reside in those Stillwater precincts, who have essentially lost their voice in matters most central to their community, which is clearly Stillwater. I hope that as legislative district maps are drawn for the next decade, this injustice will be corrected.

The Stillwater precincts that have been in SD39A clearly have more in common with their neighbors in SD39B. They shop at the same stores, go to the same churches, and travel the same transportation corridors. Their kids and grandchildren go to the same schools. They share a common interest in the activities of the St. Croix River and the health of the river. Their library is the Stillwater library, where they meet to select books and attend events. They share none of these same interests with the people of Forest Lake.

Thus, I urge you to draw our legislative district map in such a manner as to place all of the residents of the City of Stillwater in SD39B. It will respect the shared interests of the Stillwater community and preserve this political boundary. It would also improve the geographical compactness and continuity of both legislative districts affected.

Thank you for the time and effort that you are devoting to drawing fair maps in a transparent manner. We understand that it is not an easy task, and we appreciate your work for us.