

I would like to provide the below written testimony for the Redistricting Listening Session for Congressional District 6:

My name is Del Jenkins. I am 46 yrs old and my husband and I own a home in rural Wright County just north of Cokato, MN. I grew up 2 miles from where I now live and consider this area my home regardless of wherever else I have lived. I am a graduate of Alexandria Technical College and work from home as a Sr. Network Architect for a large global consulting firm. I am concerned about how the redrawing of district lines in my area could be politicized to protect incumbents instead of drawn to fairly represent the population in my area. I understand many of these rural House and Senate Districts have to get significantly larger to meet the higher population targets from the latest census. I just ask that the lines are drawn in a way that is logical without regard to those with political power holding office. Our Democracy isn't doing so well. People have become greatly polarized and its impossible to quietly pump gas without hearing everyone's opinions on everything. We need to start finding common ground and come together rather than be divided on just about every issue imaginable constantly. Regardless of our political divisions, it's important that we all find something we can agree on again, and maybe it can start with some fairly drawn districts that sensibly keep communities of interest together that are blindly drawn without regard to those currently holding these political offices. We need to start coming together again, and working with each other and getting things done again. While these problems are nothing new and aren't likely to be solved here in this listening session today, maybe it could start here. I certainly hope that's possible. Thank you for your time and attention and peace to you all as you craft these difficult choices for our state in the days ahead.

Respectfully,

Del Jenkins
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