

To the honorable members of Minnesota's redistricting committee:

Hello,

I write to encourage you in your important position to act without prejudice, and partisanship. We in Minnesota pride ourselves on inclusive fair elections where everyone deserves a vote and a voice in our precious democracy. Honest representation and conscientiously inclusive districts protect our elections. I urge you to reject tribalism and myopic thinking and be a warrior for truly democratic principals. We all look to you for that leadership on this important calling.

I am a resident and business owner in District 39B. We chose to live in this mid-ring suburb of the metro area for many reasons. However most of those reasons apply to my neighbors in my Minnesota House District as well. We live in an evolving first ring community - seeing suburban growth as we are only 30 minutes from both downtowns. Like many, my partner works downtown. As we grow less agriculturally-based and more represented by families who work between the river and the metropolitan cities, our population grows.

We gather, work, meet and shop on the Hwy 36 corridor. We rely on Stillwater's hospitality industries, tourism and employers, health and retail services. Stillwater is our hub. We use the same bridges and roads and embrace the heritage of the St. Croix River as our identity. The great majority of District 39B citizens are in one school district - Stillwater.

District 39B is very different in industry and land use than District 39A which has a rural, agricultural identity and includes towns like Scandia, Chisago, and Forest Lake which are interdependent upon Forest Lake for education, health and social services and industry.

I encourage you to think about the needs and identities of distinct communities and keep District 39 B in and of Stillwater so the voices of this community may be heard loud and clear.

Thank you,

Shannon Riley
resident and business owner
Stillwater, MN