

Testimony type: Written-only

From: Marc Galbraith

To: The House Committee on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas Congressional Maps
Position: Opponent

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I want to begin by saying I am disappointed in the timing of the committee's map and the scheduling of these hearings. Redistricting is an important public process that we will live with for the next decade. I would have expected more time for public consideration before these hearing were scheduled. I do not think this is how democracy is supposed to work.

It appears to me that the Ad Astra map ignores a great deal of testimony already provided which spoke to the importance of keeping communities of interest together. That concept has been recognized as a guiding principle because such communities share demographic, social and economic interests. Dividing such communities weakens their ability to be heard and fairly represented. A major concern is that Ad Astra appears to move three solidly Republican counties into the 3rd District and removes some of the heavily Democratic precincts of Wyandotte County. The intent seems clear and I believe a challenge is likely if Republicans advance Ad Astra or a similar map.

I a testifying because we are all impacted by what happens in Washington and I believe I and my community will be best represented by starting with maps that recognize and preserve communities of interest.

I live in Topeka which is part of the 2nd Congressional district. It is a mixture of urban and rural populations, but I live in the central part of Topeka which is composed of low to moderate income neighborhoods. I believe it is important to keep this part of Topeka together as it shares common interests and concerns and I believe it is very important to keep this part of Topeka together in any new map

Current Congressional maps were created by the courts and should be altered as little as necessary to accommodate population shifts. The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within

Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation. The Committees on Redistricting should make their maps, agendas, and deadlines available to the public with at least a full week's notice to allow enough time to review maps, and prepare and submit testimony.

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Respectfully,

Marc Galbraith

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