

Testimony type: Written-only

From: Amy Carter

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

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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

I am a PROPONENT of HB 2519, the Bluestem Congress plan.

I have provided written and oral testimony every time we have been invited to do so throughout this redistricting process. I've only ever asked for a fair and transparent process. One that considered the commonalities of populations throughout the state. An independent commission would have been the easiest way to accomplish this, that would have been nice.

I reside in the 3rd U.S. Congressional District and have more in common with northern Wyandotte County than rural southern Johnson County.

I am a PROPONENT of HB 2519, the Bluestem Congress plan, for the following reasons:

- Bluestem Congress keeps the core communities of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area together in the Kansas Third Congressional District.
- Bluestem Congress keeps Wyandotte County whole as residents believe the county is a community of interest.
- Bluestem Congress shows that the core communities of greater Kansas City metropolitan area share common cultural, regional and socio-economic ties to one another in terms of transportation, healthcare, commute times, air quality, manufacturing, warehousing, and high-tech industry.
- Bluestem Congress does not dilute the minority community of Wyandotte County.
- Bluestem Congress places areas with common interests culturally, historically and economically together. Specifically, Rural Kansas in the 1st, Northeast Kansas in the 2nd, urban/KC metro together in the 3rd and the Wichita area in the 4th.

By drawing a map so egregiously partisan, Ad Astra proponents either weren't listening or chose to ignore the testimony of every individual that took time out of their days and nights to gather their thoughts and testify. As a private citizen, I never wanted to be this involved in the redistricting process but here we are.

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.

We live in a representative democracy. We elect our representatives to speak up for our interests and it appears some of you want to take that representation away and just throw urban areas with votes you'd like to dilute into rural districts. All in the name of removing a U.S. representative who actually listens to and responds to her constituents. So I ask this body, what are you afraid of? Can you not win on your own merits and ideas rather than using gerrymandering to choose your voters?

Respectfully,

Amy Carter

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