

January 20, 2022

TO: House Committee on Redistricting – Written Testimony

FROM: John Wilson, Resident of Douglas County

RE: Bluestem Congressional Map

Date: January 20, 2022

Chairman Croft and Members of the Committee:

**I'm writing to express my support for the Bluestem congressional map.** When compared to other maps under consideration, Bluestem is the one that adheres most closely to your redistricting guidelines, responds to testimony shared at redistricting town halls, and avoids partisan influence.

As a resident of Lawrence, **I support keeping all of Lawrence and Douglas County in a single congressional district, which the Bluestem map accomplishes.** Lawrence/Douglas County is its own Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). That means that the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Commerce have determined that we make up “a region that consists of a city and surrounding communities that are linked by social and economic factors.” Moving Lawrence into the first congressional district, which consists of almost 80 predominantly rural counties, completely ignores the unique characteristics of business and higher education that are the core of this MSA. It breaks apart numerous communities of interest within the county. And it dilutes the voting power of my friends and neighbors.

This committee—and your Senate counterparts—have your work cut out for you. I know that you're taking this responsibility seriously, and I urge you to keep partisanship and political bickering out of the process. I think the easiest way to do that is by recommending the Bluestem map to the full House for approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Wilson

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Lawrence, KS 66047