

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1604

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Kansas State House and Senate Redistricting Committees
Room 68-W State Capitol Building
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today regarding the Kansas redistricting process and the House and Senate Redistricting Committees' task to draw new congressional maps following the 2020 Census.

I am honored and humbled to represent 731,814 Kansans who live in the 4th Congressional District. The recent Census found that the total Kansas population was 2,937,880 in 2020. Since 2010, our population has grown by 84,762 people, an increase of 3.0% since 2010. The Census numbers indicate that the four U.S. House seats allocated to Kansas should have at or near 734,470 people. The 4th District of Kansas needs only 2,656 people to achieve this number.

As the 4th District is so close to the constitutionally required number of constituents, I am confident that House and Senate Redistricting Committees will be able to achieve the correct number of constituents with minimal change to the current makeup of the 4th District.

The 4th District of Kansas embodies a cosmopolitan representation of America.

The majority of residents live in the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County in an urban setting. The Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) encompasses Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey, Kingman and Sumner counties, and is the largest metro area in Kansas with a 2019 population of 640,218.

However, the 4th District also has a very large rural footprint in the 16 counties surrounding Sedgwick County including, Butler, Harvey, Greenwood, Elk, Chautauqua, Cowley, Sumner, Kingman, Harper, Stafford, Pratt, Barber, Pawnee, Edwards, Kiowa and Comanche Counties. Because the 4th District is such a unique mix of both urban and rural communities, it is important we preserve it.

The 4th District is closely connected geographically in a clear, compact, and contiguous way in south central Kansas centered around the Wichita MSA. Collectively known as the Air Capital of the World, Wichita and the 4th District hold a strong connection to the aviation industry that stretches back more than a century. Thousands of families in the 4th District have their employment and livelihoods tied to

the aviation manufacturing industry. In addition, thousands of aviation manufacturing workers live in the counties surrounding Wichita and commute into the city for work.

The presence of Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport and McConnell Air Force Base in the district deepen the connections to the aviation industry. Being a part of the 4th District ensures that the families that rely on aviation and aviation manufacturing are substantially represented at the federal level.

Additionally, the 4th District supports the aviation and manufacturing industries through a comprehensive supply chain, workforce development opportunities and a skilled workforce in the Wichita MSA and surrounding counties.

Beyond aviation, the 4th District's other diverse constituents are best served when the district is as close and connected as it is today. Veterans across the district and Kansas receive health care and other services from the Robert J. Dole VA in Wichita. Having this facility and the surrounding community located in one single congressional district helps safeguard the interests of the men and women who have bravely served our country.

Further, the farmers and ranchers that have lived for generations in the western, eastern and southern counties of the 4th District need a voice to advocate for their priorities on agricultural, environmental, and trade issues. Keeping these counties tied with the rest of the 4th District, where the goods they produce are packaged and shipped, is critical for the success of future generations of Kansas family farms.

Ten years ago, during the redistricting process, the United States District Court for the District of Kansas drew the current lines of the 4th District. The Court concluded in *Essex v. Kobach* that the 4th Congressional District should continue to comprise Sedgwick County and surrounding counties. Additionally, the Court found that Wichita and south central Kansas make up a community of interest in the composition of the 4th District.

Keeping the Wichita MSA in the same congressional district is vital to our regional economy since this is clearly a community of interest. As the redistricting process moves forward, I encourage the House and Senate Redistricting Committees to keep the 4th District as close as possible to its current compact, contiguous, and core shape that it is in now.

Sincerely,



Ron Estes
Member of Congress