To the redistricting commission:

I live in Miami County, and would love to see our new Ohio General Assembly map more closely tie the North I-75 communities of Dayton. Piqua, Troy, Tipp City, and Vandalia are similar in demography and have strong economic ties to one another. I'd love to see our cities' residents unified in the statehouse, represented by someone from the North I-75 corridor.

Currently, Miami County is tied to the southern half of Darke County in District 80. The current allocation separates Miami County communities from Vandalia and north Dayton. Miami County's suburbs are not rural, but are tied in the statehouse to a wide swath of rural area. The District 80/84 divide separates half of Darke County from its economic center in Greenville. In addition, the current allocation splits Trotwood, a community similar in political leanings to East Dayton, from District 49 and lumps it with the deep-red communities of District 43.

I've submitted my own proposed General Assembly map, but am certainly not a professional mapmaker. Fortunately, several organizations around the state are employing the services of community members and experts alike. Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission's "Unity Map " addresses the issues that I've discussed here, and I support the General Assembly districts as OCRC has redrawn them in the Dayton area.

Thank you,

Lauren Karch