

To: Ohio Redistricting Commission (September 12, 2021)

My name is Jo Lovelace Hill. I am a resident of Harrison Township, which is in House District 43. This district includes several rural townships in Montgomery County and all of Preble County. My representative represents Preble County and has no interest in Harrison Township.

The map which you adopted on Thursday still has Harrison Township included with Preble County. The rest of the district is made up of rural areas and small towns. These areas have nothing in common with my community. Harrison Township is much closer to the city of Dayton, not just geographically, but also in terms of its population and its economy. Our needs and concerns are very different from the rest of the district, and our representative doesn't do anything about them.

For 10 years my community has not been represented in the Ohio Legislature. Because of the makeup of the 43rd District, we have had no possibility of electing the representative of our choice. This injustice cannot continue for another 10 years. Harrison Township must be included in a district that is part of the Dayton metropolitan area.

The map produced by the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission shows what this district could look like. On this map, Harrison Township is included with the city of Trotwood and the northern suburbs of Dayton. These communities have much more in common with ours than the district the commission is proposing. We would have an actual voice in choosing our representative and a much better chance of having effective representation in the legislature.

I'm asking you today, "Let the citizens of my community have a voice. Don't dilute our votes by lumping us together with people we have nothing in common with. We deserve representation in the Legislature."

Thank you for your time.

Submitted by Jo A. Lovelace (lvlacej@aol.com)

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