

# Testimony To The Ohio Redistricting Commission

Stephen Michael Kellat

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I will confine my remarks to issues with boundary lines on the proposed map. That would be the most profitable use of time.

The redraw of the lines to the 32nd senatorial district creates problems. Although the lines were redrawn to include the majority of the district's population they presently *exclude* the currently serving senator, Sandra O'Brien, who has more than two years remaining on her term. The redrawn lines deprive the people in the newly-drawn 32nd district of the services of a state senator as the Republican Party would need to decide how to fill the vacancy that was created as no other senator would be living nearby to plausibly represent that district. Senator O'Brien's currently neighboring senator, Senator Jerry Cirino, lives in Lake County and faces a redrawn map that sharply changes his district to the point that *he would become the new senator representing Mrs. O'Brien*. That the Republican Party is depriving itself of the services of one of its first-term state senators is baffling.

Turning to the proposed map for the House we see an unusual tentacle slithering into Ashtabula County. This particular line lumps communities like Harpersfield, Austinburg, Eagleville, Rock Creek, Geneva, and Geneva on the Lake into a district with Lake County communities instead of being included with neighboring communities in their own county. Part of the problem with this horrible tentacle is that while it includes the Village of Rock Creek in that Lake County-based district it leaves Trumbull Township to its west between it and the Geauga-Ashtabula County line *in a completely different district*. Overall this does not help community cohesion in the largest county of our state.

All of the maps that have been proposed have frankly taken a jigsaw to Ashtabula County. The current working proposal snakes a tentacle from Lake County into it. The Senate Democratic caucus map chopped the county into an east-west split. The winners of the public mapmaking contest took an approach splitting the county diagonally with the split running from Orwell in the southwestern corner to Conneaut in the northeastern corner.

Ashtabula County has its own more natural split. The main population centers and affinity communities are the cities of Geneva, Ashtabula, and Conneaut. All three are north of Interstate Route 90. The National Weather Service splits the county using I-90 as the dividing line when it gives forecasts for "Ashtabula Lakeshore" and "Ashtabula Inland".

I urge that you consider sticking with the more natural split used by the National Weather Service. Our population follows that split just as much as our weather does. Our county isn't large enough to support a single House district but you can at least break us up in ways that respect our traditions, history, and culture.

Thank you for your time and consideration