

Testimony of Scott Jaillet (Northwest Regional Hearing)

I want to first say I am honored to be here on such an important occasion. A little about myself, I am a retired US Navy veteran currently employed with Grove City College as an Electrical Engineer as well as the director of Grove City College BEST Robotics I am a Grove City Borough Councilman, I am the vice chair of the local Council of Governments. This is an occasion that everyone here should consider a vital part of this Nations democracy. We all need to tune out the background noise from the news and social medias to focus on what is right for this state and the nation.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania lost 1 congressional seat due to the last census numbers. The process of redistricting has been thrust in our laps even with a well-balanced growth of roughly 277,000 new citizens to our state. While other states have increased their populations faster, we have been left with a deficit in our congressional voice. This change will add approximately 58,000 people to each of the 17 new congressional districts. Currently there are 5 counties in this US congressional district 4 intact and 1, Butler County which is divided among 3 congressional districts. It would be my hope since northwestern Pennsylvania has seen a decline in overall population in the last 10 years along with the increase of population requirements per district to keep conformity without carving up another county the population deficit should be made up by adding voters from Butler County to this district providing contiguity to the district.

Knowing these things, it is my hope none of this district will be carved off, but more people will be added to make the size more in line with the numbers provided by the 2020 census results. Change to this district to meet these requirements the lines drawn should be placed in such a manor as to limit the division of towns, townships, and counties as much as possible preserving the contiguous manor that currently exist with this district. Such divisions tend to confuse residence and frustrate local government officials when conducting business. Another concern is voters in the split counties risk being ignored completely. The reality is there still may need to be a split in Butler County and the northern portion of Butler County is more rural, keeping in line with the economic needs of large portions of those voters in the current district.

There will always be special interest group who will disagree with the decisions of this commission and may challenge the decisions made but I believe that when given the effort combined with unbiased moral driven choices, we all will benefit from this process when completed.

Sincerely,
Scott Jaillet