

Testimony of Timothy Campbell (Allegheny Regional Hearing)

I have been a lifelong member of Bethel Park. I chose to live in this community because I appreciate its values and way of life. I love living in middle suburbia as this is the kind of environment in which I wanted to bring up my children.

Here in Bethel Park and the South Hills we live a different type of life than they do in Pittsburgh. We have different needs and different priorities than they do in the city. I think that it would be a huge mistake for our communities to be lumped together with the city of Pittsburgh. If we only had representatives and elected officials which serviced the entire area, we would not have had our immediate needs met. We have received grants which have been used to overhaul aging parks and playgrounds which are important to our citizens. If our representatives were also the ones representing the city of Pittsburgh, I seriously doubt that any of our needs will be met. We would be swallowed up into the city's needs, which are many. They have their own needs and issues, which are vastly different from our own. We deserve the right to have our own representation, and our citizens have the right to be able to be represented in Harrisburg. We are not Pittsburgh.

I believe that by trying to have the same representatives for Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities it will only end up enlarging Pittsburgh's own interests. We would be lost. We would lose our representation in Harrisburg. Our citizens' voices would be ignored in favor of those of the city. We would be forgotten citizens in Harrisburg.

I believe that this is an attempt to strengthen the power in the cities and dilute the voices in the suburbs. This is not right, nor is it fair. All of the citizens of Pennsylvania deserve to be heard in Harrisburg, the small towns and suburbs as well as the cities. We are individual communities and deserve our own representatives.

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