

## **Testimony of Muriel Johnson-Nuttall (Southwest Regional Hearing)**

As Fayette County Pennsylvania's largest and most active business organization representing over 600 employers and 17,000 employees, The Fayette Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to address the PA House Republican Caucus – Southwest Regional Hearing on redistricting.

The Chamber believes there is a significant opportunity to improve the current process of drawing boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts, so as to be drawn in a fair, transparent manner.

As an organization that advocates for the best in business practice and fairness of opportunities for our business owners and entrepreneurs, we believe districts should be compact, substantially equal in population, be inclusive of full county areas by following geographic boundaries, and not drawn in a way that favors one political party over another.

The leadership in Fayette County, from Federal to State to County government, throughout our economic and community development organizations and to our business community, is laser focused on opportunity and growth for our future. We are poised to seek, identify, and capitalize on economic development prospects, and representation of our area – as a whole – without geographic division will allow us to maximize that growth, which will especially benefit Southwestern Pennsylvania and in turn, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a whole.

Our region is lucky to have such solid leadership and partnerships at the local, state and federal levels. This has allowed important legislative measures to be introduced and funded through the state, not just due to the merits of concept, but because leaders and communities chose to work together for the benefit of the whole. This history of cooperation and unity has also increased interest in economic development across the region.

It is our hope this collaboration will continue. It is vitally important to our business community that the redistricting process will continue to be transparent and will continue to assure that public input is not only included, but truly incorporated into a final decision on legislative boundaries.

Thank you for allowing Fayette Chamber of Commerce to publicly comment on this most important issue related to our future.

Sincerely,

Muriel Johnson-Nuttall  
Executive Director  
Fayette Chamber of Commerce