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Testimony on Redistricting

March 7, 2012

Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Cash, President/CEO

My name is Cindy Cash and I am the President of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. The KCK Chamber has two concerns with some of the maps being considered. We are very concerned with any consideration of Wyandotte County being moved out of the third Congressional district or splitting Wyandotte County into two Congressional districts. We are also concerned with any map that would lessen the number of state representation Wyandotte County currently has.

Wyandotte County is mostly an urban center and should remain in like company with Johnson County for its Congressional representation. We need representation that will represent the opportunities and challenges of an urban center in Washington, D.C. We do not believe it would be fair or appropriate for a Congressman to have to represent such diverse cultures. We do not believe it would be fair to either the rural Kansas Counties or Wyandotte County to have half of a representative attempting to represent them.

The Kansas City Kansas Chamber is also concerned with any consideration of our County losing one of its current eleven delegation members. Our County has worked hard to stabilize our population loss and over the last five years, we have not only stabilized but have started to experience growth in our population. We should not lose any representation in our County.

The Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber appreciates the difficulty of re-drawing congressional and state maps that are fair to all. But we believe the overriding factor should be "communities of like interest" for congressional representation and because of the hard work of our community to change directions and grow, we should retain the number of state senators and representatives we have today.

Again, we appreciate the work of committee and look to you to do the right thing for the best interests of the whole state. Thank you for your consideration.