

Testimony for Ohio Redistricting Commission Meeting on September 9, 2021

Columbus, Ohio

My name is Gerald Barna. I have been a resident of the city of Avon, Ohio for 18 years and lived in Lorain County for over 50 years. I was a senior manager at the NASA Glenn Research Center and retired in 2003 after 40 years of service. After retirement I was a consultant for a number of small companies and non-profit organizations for 15 years.

Avon is in the 57th House District. On August 23rd I testified about major issues with District 57, particularly for Avon and North Ridgeville and their citizens and proposed a solution for those issues. After the testimony on August 23rd, I have continued to review the Proposed District and found that the Proposed District did not meet Federal and State population size requirements. I am therefore proposing a moderately Revised District which does meet the requirements.

The 57th District is not compact and has convoluted boundaries. It largely has communities which are significantly different from Avon. There are communities in Lorain County similar to and in close proximity to Avon which are in other Districts. For example, Avon and Avon Lake are adjacent to each other and are essentially “twin cities”, being largely residential but having a major emphasis on industrial development. Yet they are currently in different Districts. In addition to Avon Lake, other communities in Lorain County are similar to Avon as well. Finally, North Ridgeville is split with part in District 57 and part in another District. The citizens of Avon, North Ridgeville and the State of Ohio would be better served having a District consisting of a more logical set of communities with more coherent boundaries.

I suggest a District which includes the following communities in their entirety: Avon, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Sheffield, Sheffield Lake and Eaton. I believe this District would eliminate the issues discussed above and serve the interests of the communities in the District and the State of Ohio. This Revised Proposed District is compact and contiguous, retains city and township borders, and consists of similar communities. I request that this option be entered into the record, seriously considered, and adopted as part of Ohio’s 2021 Redistricting. Thank you.

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