

Testimony Supporting McPherson County Remaining in the First Congressional District

By

Thomas A. Brown, Mayor of the City of McPherson, Kansas

Sen. Tim Owens and conferees, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony before the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. McPherson County is more in line with the interests of the communities in the 1st Congressional District.

- We have strong agriculture and energy industries that fit better with the 1st District. Our communities have shared an employment base with Reno, Saline, Rice and Marion Counties.
- Our transportation district is centered in this same area.
- Use of hospitals and doctors is focused in Hutchinson, Salina and McPherson.
- Our recent alliances on public transportation efforts link us regionally with Reno County
- The Veterans Administration has transferred many veterans to the Hutchinson and Salina offices.
- Our school districts compete athletically and academically with other communities in the 1st District.
- The K-61 Enhancement was a major project under the Comprehensive Transportation Program and the first project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act whereby McPherson County received \$164 million. This project now provides a safer corridor for employment, shopping, recreation and many other activities. If this transportation link was deemed vital to our region's connectivity, It would seem logical that we should stay connected through the same congressional district.

The above reasons are a few examples of our past connectivity to other counties in the First Congressional District. Our economic pull factors link us closely with the counties contiguous with McPherson County. The McPherson Economic Development Company has spent the last 50 years building sound economic projects with our neighbors. It will make our progress more difficult as we play an important part in revitalizing Kansas. The Mohawk Interchange awarded this past year by Governor Brownback is our latest effort to enhance economic development in the north central area of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Brown, Mayor
City of McPherson, Kansas

February 1, 2012

Senate Reapportionment

2/1/12
Attachment 6