

Barbara Reid
5-2 Camelot Drive
Bloomfield CT 06002

July 20, 2011

Dear Members of the Reapportionment Committee,

My name is Barbara Reid and I live in Bloomfield. I have been active in the Town of Bloomfield as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Democratic Town Committee. I am also active in Saint Monica's Church in Hartford.

In my Church, we have members from all over the greater Hartford area, including Bloomfield, Windsor and Hartford. When we join together to pray or to help the community, nobody asks where you live. The only thing that counts is your commitment, intentions, and responsiveness. As Church members rise to leadership positions, they receive support because of their involvement and dedication.

I believe that political leaders earn the same respect through their caring and willingness to help make things better. I feel disappointed when I hear some political leaders say that a Legislator who does not live in a certain town can't properly represent that community. That comment ignores the personal qualities and traits of the elected official. It overlooks the fact that ultimately the voters get to decide who is best to represent them.

In my Church we come together to improve lives and it doesn't matter where you live. In politics we too, must work together and the fact that several towns share a legislator should not matter. What truly counts is that the person elected is willing to work with the residents of his or her entire District.

In Bloomfield like Windsor, we have several legislative representatives. Specifically we have two State Senators: Eric Coleman and Beth Bye, and two Representatives: David Baram and Matt Ritter. I never hear complaints that we have four representatives. Just the opposite, people know that our legislators work together for the common good, and that they get things done. As long as each official is willing to work for our benefit, it doesn't matter where they live.

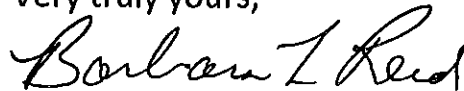
Residents appreciate that our four Legislators work together to get results. Residents expect that by having several legislators we will have more clout in addressing matters of importance.

Issues such as budget, social services, public safety, affect us all. Residents should judge elected officials by what they do and their positions on issues. In fulfilling your responsibilities on Redistricting, I hope that you will continue to see the benefits of allowing towns to share legislators.

In Bloomfield we are proud to work with Windsor, West Hartford and Hartford. It would be unfortunate to change established relationships that have existed for such a long time. That is why I speak in favor of keeping our existing Senate and House districts, which allow the four great communities of Bloomfield, Windsor, West Hartford and Hartford to work together.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my views.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Reid". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barbara Reid