

## Redistricting 2011 – Keeping Middlefield in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

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I am a long-time (feel free to specify how many years) resident of Middlefield, Connecticut and served on our local Board of Finance for eight years. This background has provided me the unique opportunity to work regularly with our elected officials and to appreciate the complexities localities face every ten years when we need to reassess legislative districts.

Middlefield is a small town however the character of our community has fit in well with the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District - - particularly with the addition of Middletown, a city to which Middlefield has strong historical, ethnic, and socio-economic ties. Additionally, while Middlefield is arguably one of the smallest towns in the state, the current make-up of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District has allowed us to maintain a strong voice relative to our size.

While I understand that given current populations, there will certainly be shifts to each of the state's Congressional Districts, historically the districts have been drawn in such a way that the communities sharing a Representative also share strong common interests, both economically and in their general character. There is also something to be said for looking at how our urban and suburban communities interact with each other - - everything from regional planning and common commuting patterns to such simple things as reading the same local paper or watching the same news broadcast. For the most part, our current Districts reflect these commonalities and, in my mind, it would be detrimental to all of our communities to significantly re-draw the lines.

I have little doubt that in each District you will find that the cities and towns have developed unique ways in which to work together to meet common goals. Continuity in these efforts is often critical to ongoing

success. As the Committee considers the changes that must be made to the State's Congressional Districts, I would urge you to maintain the character and integrity of each district as much as possible. Middlefield (and Middletown) has (have) been well-served as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and I hope that is where we remain.

Thank you for your time and attention to my comments.