



As northwestern Illinois' largest business organization representing over 1,300 employers, The Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to address the House Redistricting Committee.

The Chamber believes there is a significant opportunity to improve the current process of drawing boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts, so as to be drawn in a fair, transparent manner.

We believe districts should be compact, substantially equal in population, follow geographic or municipal boundaries to the extent possible, and not drawn to favor one political party over another.

The Quad Cities region is poised to seek, identify, and capitalize on future economic development opportunities, and cohesive representation will allow us to maximize that growth, which will benefit the State of Illinois.

Our region is lucky to have such solid leadership and partnerships at the local, state and federal levels. This has allowed important legislative measures to be introduced and funded through the state, not just due to the merits of a venture, but because leaders and communities set aside borders and advocated for what would help the entire Quad Cities region. This history of cooperation and unity has also increased interest in economic development across the region.

It is our hope this collaboration will continue after the new maps have been drawn and that the redistricting process will continue to be transparent with public input included and truly incorporated into a final decision on legislative boundaries.

Thank you for allowing the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce to publicly comment on this most important issue related to our region's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PSJR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Paul Rumler

President & CEO

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce