

May 26, 2021

Senator Omar Aquino, Chair Senate Redistricting Committee
Senator Jason Barickman, Minority Spokesman

Representative Elizabeth Hernandez, Chair House Redistricting Committee
Representative Tim Butler, Minority Spokesman

Over the past weekend the House and Senate Redistricting Committees released their first proposal to redraw the legislative districts. As the Mayor of Monmouth, Illinois, I am writing to express my concern that the map as introduced carves out 60% of Warren County's townships and redirects them to another district that encompasses small portions of five other counties.

On behalf of the citizens of Monmouth and Warren County, I would ask that the townships of Kelly, Monmouth, Coldbrook, Lenox, Floyd, Roseville, Berwick, Swan, and Greenbush that have been drawn into the 71st House District be restored to the 94th House District to keep Warren County whole.

I make this request because these townships share a community of interest with Monmouth and within its County on regional and statewide issues. Warren County also had strong working relationships with its surrounding counties of Henderson, Mercer, and McDonough of which large portions of those counties are left in the 94th District. The 94th District becomes too widely spread out and excludes an integral portion of Warren County. Under the best of scenarios, the result will be significantly reduced access to our legislators. Moving Monmouth to a more urban area would only succeed in adding our community into a district with misaligned issues and concerns that do not relate to our community's needs and will not be in our best interest.

As the redistricting process draws to a close over the next few days and the district lines are hardened for the next decade, I sincerely hope you will consider making this change.

Sincerely,


Rod Davies, Mayor
City of Monmouth