

April 20, 2011

Sub Committee Members:

It has come to my attention that in discussions for re-drawing the legislative districts in Illinois, that there is interest in splitting Jefferson County into two districts. While this may seem to make sense to individuals running for re-election, this is a potentially damaging move to our developing economy within this county. We currently have several multi-million dollar developments occurring throughout this county and it would be easier, not only for this county, to include its cities and villages, but for the affected legislators as well to have one voice in the House and one in the Senate to conduct business.

While this may make sense in counties with population in excess of the required amount for legislative seats, Jefferson County has now slid below 40,000 residents, making a single voice in the House and Senate that more crucial.

While the State of Illinois continues to struggle with balancing their budget which has resulted in slow payments to Counties, Cities and Villages, having one Representative and one Senator makes it easier to discuss these issues and in seeking financial relief when necessary, which occurs many times throughout the year.

For ANY issues that require any elected officials in the county to call upon our State Representative or State Senator, having ONE of each would be much easier and more effective than trying to determine which one for which section.

Dividing our county is not desired nor acceptable. Please understand that we respect the job you are required by our State Constitution to do, which also empowers you to serve the citizens. Therefore on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson County I respectfully ask that we have one State Representative and one State Senator. This is very concerning to us and we ask that you carefully consider this when you vote to re-draw the districts.

Respectfully,

Robert J. White, Chairman
Jefferson County Board