

Testimony of **John Rupp**, President, Mechanicsburg Area School Board of Directors

The Legislative Reapportionment Commission has invited Pennsylvania citizens to provide feedback on Legislative district boundaries. We recognize and respect the primary goal of the Commission, as outlined in the Constitution of Pennsylvania, is to ensure every citizen's vote carries the same weight. Once that goal is addressed, we believe it is also important to note how our Legislators can effectively execute their responsibilities for the citizens they represent. It is our understanding that the Governor has referred to this idea as "maintaining communities of interest."

As you know, State Representatives work with organizations such as school districts to gather and share information, to provide and understand perspective, and to serve the needs of the citizenry by maintaining the community of interest.

The Mechanicsburg Area School District has historically been fully part of the 88th District. The School District and supporting organizations serve as a significant connector between the citizens in the municipalities of Upper Allen, Mechanicsburg, and noncontiguous Shiremanstown. These connections allow our citizens to identify needs, solve problems and seek resources as a singular community of interest. Currently, it is very clear to our community of interest that we have one representative to the State House.

On behalf of the Mechanicsburg Area School District, we are asking for consideration for all of Mechanicsburg Borough, Upper Allen Township and Shiremanstown Borough to be included in the same legislative district as it currently stands now.