

March 25, 2011

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To the Members of the House Committee on Government Affairs:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed redistricting of house districts in the Monroe/West Monroe area.

The current House District 16 includes the headquarters of CenturyLink, one of our state's few Fortune 500 companies, the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Monroe's commercial and banking centers. In fact, the epicenter of Northeast Louisiana's business community is located in this district.

Under the current redistricting proposal, District 16 would be divided among three districts, none of which would have a core population centered in the Monroe business district. It would put the University of Louisiana at Monroe in a district not centered in Monroe and would move CenturyLink into a district that primarily serves a rural population.

I understand that you must accommodate requirements of Federal law in drawing the new districts. I do believe, however, that you can accommodate Federal law while preserving the district that keeps Monroe's business community at its core. I strongly urge you to adopt a plan that would maintain the core of District 16 in a single district.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



William Art Gray

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