



NORTHWESTERN STATE University of Louisiana

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Office of the President

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March 23, 2011

The Honorable Rick Nowlin
816 University Parkway, Suite C
Natchitoches, La. 71457

Dear Rep. Nowlin:

Please accept this letter as a strong and unmitigated endorsement of your efforts to keep the city of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish intact in this year's legislative reapportionment process.

One of the primary reasons that Natchitoches Parish has enjoyed such remarkable progress over the past two decades is the spirit of unity that has been established between the city, parish, university, Louisiana School, National Park Service, Chamber of Commerce and other entities in this unique community.

Being part of parish-wide House and Senate districts has numerous advantages for Natchitoches and the parish, because the community's legislative delegation can focus special attention on the needs of the parish and its diverse population and cultures.

Natchitoches, Northwestern and the Cane River region have received positive national attention over the years because of our rich history, beauty, warmth, natural resources and other assets that have made the parish one of the best places in the nation to live, work, raise families and retire.


That reputation and identity have been created over decades and have been enhanced by the parish's influence and favorable status in the Louisiana Legislature. Splitting the city and parish among different legislative districts would dilute the community's historical clout in the legislature and diminish its role as one of the most prestigious and progressive areas of the state.

Northwestern celebrated its 125th anniversary last year in a community that was founded in 1884 and is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase Territory. Much of the university's stability and its important role in higher education in Louisiana and the South have been created by the rich history of this region and solid support over the years from the legislature.

This university's collaborations and alliances with the city, parish, Louisiana School and other agencies, institutions and entities in Natchitoches, the Cane River region and the rest of the parish have formed the bedrock of the school for more than a century. It would be extremely detrimental to Northwestern and to the city and parish for these relationships and partnerships to be splintered through redistricting of the legislature that would erode the unity and special identity of our community.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the parish intact as the legislature grapples with the difficult task of redistricting, and please let me know if faculty, staff, students and alumni of the university may assist you in this process.

Sincerely,


Randolph Webb
President