



March 21, 2011

Representative Rick Nowlin
816 University Parkway, Suite C
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Dear Representative Nowlin,

I am writing in regard to recent discussions concerning the potential division of the city of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish currently being discussed by state legislators. As President of the NSU Foundation, an alumnus of Northwestern State University and a local business leader, these matters are of grave concern to me and I deeply appreciate your current efforts to ensure our district remains intact.

As you know, both Natchitoches and Northwestern share similar attributes in terms of longevity, Natchitoches being the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase established in 1714 and Northwestern being the oldest institution in the state located in the same location since its begging's in 1884. This level of stability and growth has been sustained over the years through unified support from a single legislator representing our district and the fact that our city and parish are not separated.

Examples of success through this cohesive structure range widely from the preservation of the rich history of the Cane River National Heritage Area to the 126 year tradition of educational excellence exhibited at Northwestern State. The historical value of our area attracts tourist from around the nation to the heart of our Louisiana and enhances the ability of our community and parish to work together sharing the same vision and goals for our future. The economic impact from Northwestern State University provides over \$350 million annually to the region and increases steadily year after year.

Your support in favor of keeping our district intact will greatly increase the potential for our city and parish to continue the preserving our traditions and resources and enhancing the impact on the state and region. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance through my respective roles in gaining additional support for this matter.

MONTGOMERY
1000 Caddo Street
P.O. Box 128
Montgomery, LA 71454
(318) 646-3386

NATCHITOCHES
352 South Drive
P.O. Box 7294
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(318) 352-2056

NATCHITOCHES
814 Washington Street
P.O. Box 7294
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(318) 352-3060

CLOUTIERVILLE
14258 Highway 1
P.O. Box 219
Cloutierville, LA 71416
(318) 379-1900