



Senator Louie Bernard  
431 Jefferson St.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
November 9, 2021

Dear Senator Bernard,

As the Senate considers the redistricting of the State, our main concern is maintaining the integrity of districts representing our rural parishes. Census estimates project by year 2050, seventy-five percent of our US population will reside in urban areas. We have witnessed the decline of our rural towns and municipalities in the recent 2020 census. Rural Louisiana is critical for our food supply from farms and forest products from tree farms. Timber is Louisiana's number one agricultural crop providing jobs to loggers, income to landowners and jobs in the many papermills, plywood plants and sawmills throughout the state. These jobs provide the base for many rural communities in our state.

Specifically, District 31 represents the Piney Woods of Louisiana, large farming communities, NSU, LSUA, Toledo Bend and a large swath of rural communities. The land and natural resources in this district is the tie that binds. Keeping districts like 31 together without changing the rural nature is important and the district doesn't need to be dissected or diluted.

In the redistricting process, we need to be sure the rural communities are represented and not split. Rural Louisiana and the lifestyle of the people is something to be proud of and maintained. The future of our State will continue to rely on our natural resources and agriculture communities which provide so many good jobs for our citizens. Having strong representation and understanding the needs of our rural communities will be critical for these communities to continue to grow and prosper.

Thank you for your consideration.

With kindest regards,

David Cupp  
President