



Minnesota House of Representatives
Committee on Redistricting
100 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Murphy and Committee Members,

As Mayor and Councilors of the City of Hermantown, MN we write to you regarding the upcoming redistricting process. It is our hope the redistricting process will adhere to the Redistricting Principles of 'Preserving Political Subdivisions'¹ and 'Preserving Communities of Interest'² when redrawing State Senate District 3 (SD-3) and State Senate District 7 (SD-7) to preserve the entirety of the Hermantown suburban-rural community in a separate legislative district from the larger urban city of Duluth, MN.

The principle of 'Preserving Political Subdivisions' is meant to discourage the division of county, city, or township boundaries into separate legislative districts. Given the fact that SD-7 must increase by approximately 5,514 people, and because SD-7 is nearly surrounded by the current SD-3, it is likely that the former will need to assume some precincts from the latter. Given that the current makeup of SD-3 includes two precincts (Duluth P-11 & P-23) within the boundaries of the city of Duluth, it is imperative that these precincts be considered for inclusion in the new SD-7, rather than splitting up the three precincts that make up the city of Hermantown. This would not only preserve the city of Hermantown as a political subdivision, but it would also bring together the entirety of Duluth precincts into a single Senate District.

The principle of 'Preserving Communities of Interest' is meant to maintain the character of communities as urban, suburban, and rural. Hermantown has a history of distinguishing itself from the city of Duluth. For instance, when, in 1974, the city of Duluth announced its intention to annex portions of the town of Herman, the community instead established itself as the separate city of Hermantown on February 11, 1975³. In addition, it is our belief that the city of Hermantown has more commonalities in character with other suburban and rural communities like Cloquet, Proctor, Rice Lake, and Two Harbors; than with an urban city like Duluth. The concerns our citizens face relate to rural broadband access, sewer truck utility access, and other rural community issues. Combining Hermantown into the same legislative district as Duluth could hinder our voice as a suburban-rural community of interest.

We appreciate your consideration and your hard work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Wayne Boucher
Mayor

Gloria Nelson
City Councilor

John Geissler
City Councilor

Natalie Peterson
City Councilor

Grant Hauschild
City Councilor

¹ Minn. Stat. § 2.91, subd. 2; Reynolds, 377 U.S. at 580-81, 84 S. Ct. at 1391-92.

² LULAC, 548 U.S. at 433, 126 S. Ct. at 2618; Miller, 515 U.S. at 916, 115 S. Ct. at 2488.

³ <https://hermantownchamber.com/hermantown/hermantown-community-information/>