

From: nancyleel@webtv.net [mailto:nancyleel@webtv.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2002 7:58 PM  
To: senateredistricting(webmail)  
Subject: Collier County

I oppose the redistricting of Collier county to be included in part of Dade county. This is a totally partisan plan that I object to even as a registered Republican.

Thank you,  
Nancy Sekowski  
2968 Kings Lake Blvd  
Naples, Fl 34112

**From:** Bakers1926@cs.com [mailto:Bakers1926@cs.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2002 9:30 AM  
**To:** senateredistricting(webmail)  
**Subject:** Redistricting plan

I respectfully oppose the captioned plan. The plan causes some good legislators to lose their office, e.g., Karen Thurman while strengthening some not so good, e.g., Corrine Brown. I am a registered Republican that appreciates good representation by responsible people. The redistricting measure will not help the people of Florida. It is so blatantly obvious that it is a self-serving politically motivated endeavor by and for politicians.

Danny Baker  
14703 SE 183 Ave.  
Hawthorne, FL 32640  
[bakers1926@cs.com](mailto:bakers1926@cs.com)

March 6, 2002

Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman  
Room 103 SOB  
404 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Senator Webster,

I am writing to request that Congresswoman Karen Thurman's Congressional district remain as close to its current configuration as possible.

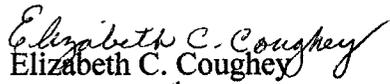
Congresswoman Thurman has been an excellent Representative, she knows what the challenges and needs are and works hard to fill them. She is highly regarded and respected by all residents, regardless of party lines. She believes in representing all the people, not the political parties.

We need people like Congresswoman Thurman as our Representative. She works hard to help veterans, seniors, children, working families and business owners. It is important to keep communities of interest together and to remove Congresswoman Thurman would deprive the people of an articulate advocate and defender.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that continuity of representation is a standard which can be used in drawing district lines, and in this instance there is every reason to do so. The public record – from the hearings this past summer – clearly reflects that the people of this region want to maintain their community of interest. For that reason, we ask the Florida Senate pass a plan in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Congresswoman Thurman rates tops with the majority of seniors, Florida's largest voting block. Please – do not gerrymander around with this district and take away the opportunity to vote for the one person that thousands of people want in the House.

Sincerely,

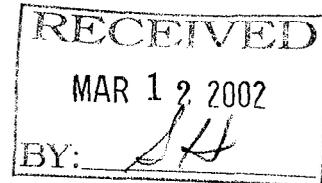
  
Elizabeth C. Coughney  
9088 SW 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34481

PHONE: 352-237-2808  
FAX: 352-236-6216  
e-mail: [hec120926@aol.com](mailto:hec120926@aol.com)

MARGARET BOONSTRA  
5803 S.W. 36<sup>TH</sup> WAY  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32608  
352-375-1715 • cmboonstra@aol.com

March 7, 2002

The Honorable Daryl Jones  
Room 404, Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100



Dear Senator Jones:

I'm incredulous and angered by the treatment of Congresswoman Karen Thurman and Alachua County in the House's Reapportionment Bill.

Republicans are in the huge minority here, so to imply that Alachua Countians would have "ease of access" to conservative Republican Cliff Stearns is ridiculous. And although Corinne Brown is a Democrat, her responsibilities to Jacksonville would deprive us of "easy access" to her, too. And Karen Thurman, who lives just 30 minutes from Gainesville, wouldn't have "easy access" to her new constituents, either.

Furthermore, for the same ideological and geographic reasons, there would be no "community of interests" between our county and Stearns and/or Brown, nor between Thurman and her new constituents.

I implore the Senate Reapportionment Committee to draft a bill which is far more fair to Alachua County and to Thurman. I urge you to forge a document that takes into account all the testimonials made at the legislative hearings in Gainesville and Ocala concerning reapportionment. I plead with you to pass a measure that is fair to us and to Karen Thurman and that can withstand judicial review.

Very, very sincerely,

*Margaret Boonstra*

Margaret Boonstra

*The DEC was really pleased that you and your lovely wife paid us a visit last month. Good luck with everything — and Do fight for us!*

9729 W. Wynn Ct.  
Crystal River, Fl. 34429  
March 5, 2002

Redistricting committee  
Senator Danial Webster  
Chairman  
Room 103 SOB  
404 S. Manroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32299

Please keep Representative Karen Thurman as our Representative of Citrus County.  
We have contacted the office of Representative Thurman many times and always receive  
an answer.  
It doesn't matter or any questions asked of our party affiliate, she is there to help and we  
desperately need her in this county.

Thank you for this support,

  
Woldemar Horn

  
Joan Horn

From: Kate Mulhearn [mailto:siroccosmom@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2002 10:23 AM  
To: senateredistricting(webmail)  
Subject: Marion County

Strange, even though Marion County is one of the fastest growing areas of the state, we still, apparently, will have no resident Senator and only one resident Representative. Why must Marion County pay the price so that you can gerrymander for other districts? A legislator who is not beholden to the Marion County voters for his/her position will not feel particularly compelled to be our advocate, especially if an issue puts us in competition with his majority constituents.

K. Mulhearn  
1014 NE 12 St.  
Ocala, FL

**From:** Robert Thompson [mailto:robert\_0931@msn.com]

**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2002 4:38 PM

**To:** senateredistricting(webmail)

**Cc:** Bobby Roberts; Robert Pappas; Dave Daughtry; Hal Foster; Jeff Miller; Jerry Smithwick; Jim Norton; Kendall Middlemas; Jim Sumner; Porter Scott J MSgt TNCOA/COEC; Carl Davis; Mike Francisco; Joseph Priestley; Wade Sthepens

**Subject:** Redistricting

Gentlemen:

I have just returned from Washington D.C. where I had the pleasure to visit both of Florida's Panhandle Congressmen, from Districts One and Two. We discussed the Florida House Redistricting Plan, and how it effects the Residents, and will for many years.

County's split in half, relying on two State Representatives and two US Congressmen for their support and assistance is to taxing for every one concerned, and there has to be a better way.

By splitting Hurlbert Field from Eglin AFB, and by placing all or part of both in the same District as Tyndall AFB, subjects all three Bases to becoming part of the next round of BRAC.

I represent Military Veterans in twenty four Panhandle Counties, as President of the Nation Association for Uniformed Services. My Members as well as leading Members of the Republican and Democratic Party's, agree the House Plan to split the Panhandle from East to West, with the Districts covering either Northern or Southern portions, while splitting some Counties in half is not acceptable. Please stay the course and give the people of the Panhandle the best possible plan, without splitting them up.

THANK YOU:

ROBERT C. THOMPSON (850) 871-2715  
NAUS, Chapter FL-10, President

From: VBBOB@aol.com [mailto:VBBOB@aol.com]  
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2002 1:50 PM  
To: senateredistricting(webmail)  
Subject: Cogressman Dave Weldon

Dear Senator Webster...The folks in Dr. Dave Weldon's Congressional District want the whole Indian River County to remain in his District. The County Commission and the Vero Beach City Council, all, too every person, support the whole county to remain in the district. God Bless.

Bob Johnson, Vero Beach/Indian River County

**Merle & Dorothy R. Wilson**

14917 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rd.  
Ocala, FL. 34473  
Home: (352) 245-3545

March 9, 2002

Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman  
Room 103 SOB  
404 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399

Dear Senator Webster;

I am writing to request that Congresswoman Karen Thurman's Congressional district remain as close to its current configuration as possible.

Congresswoman Thurman has been a superb Representative from this area. She understands its needs and challenges and knows its residents well. She is well regarded and respected by residents, without regard to party lines. Mrs. Thurman represents people, not political parties.

She is a good representative of the people, veterans, seniors, children, working families and business owners. She understands the importance of keeping communities of interest together. To remove her from these communities would deprive the people of an articulate advocate and defender.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that continuity of representation is a standard which can be used in drawing district lines, and in this instance there is every reason to do so. The public record – from the hearings this past summer – clearly reflects that the people of this region want to maintain their community of interest. For that reason, we ask the Florida Senate pass a plan in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Sincerely,



Dorothy R. Wilson

March 11, 2002  
6320 Boca Del Mar Dr.#705  
Boca Raton, FL 33433  
Phone/Fax: 561-395-5048

The Hon. Daniel Webster (Fax: 850-487-5527)  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Reapportionment  
Senate Office Building  
Tallahassee, Florida

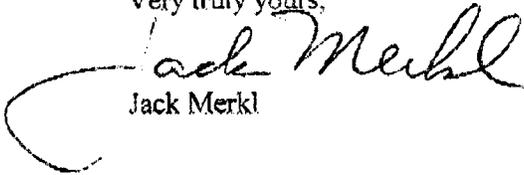
Congressional Redistricting

Dear Senator Webster:

Attached is a letter to Senator Latvala from me for your information. It outlines some suggestions for redistricting my district (C.D. 19) and neighboring districts. I trust you will find my comments useful and timely. This letter along with the submission form and emailed zipfiles complete my efforts to contribute to the redistricting of south Florida.

Thank you for making this process so open to the public and to challengers like me. The dissemination of FREDS 2000, the holding of public hearings and the provision of means to submit plans by persons like me are a credit to your leadership and reflect well on the State.

Very truly yours,

  
Jack Merkl

pg 1 of 3

March 11, 2002  
6320 Boca Del Mar Drive #705  
Boca Raton FL, 33433  
(Phone / Fax: 561-395-5048 )

The Hon. Jack Latvala (Fax: 850-487-5842)  
412 Senate Office Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Congressional Redistricting

Dear Senator Latvala:

I have been reviewing the Congressional redistricting plan recently adopted by the Florida House of Representatives. I understand that there are still many steps to be taken to resolve the final map so I presume my comments are still timely.

I am the Republican candidate for the office of U.S. Representative from CD19, challenging for the seat now held by Representative Robert Wexler (D-DeLray Beach). It is of course safe to assume that my thoughts on redistricting are self-serving, so I have confined the contents of this letter to those points which have a broader justification; such as: what is good for our democracy, what is good for the Republican Party, what is more likely to pass Department of Justice review and what is most likely to avoid suits or to survive the courts.

The House-passed Congressional redistricting map is good for Republicans in that it provides a Republican advantage in Florida's two new districts and creates stronger Republican advantages in several other districts. However, I believe it could be made even better by making District 19 more competitive for Republicans for the next ten years, whether or not I am the candidate. It can do this in two ways: (a) by packing even more Democrats into the already heavily Democratic Districts 20 (Deutsch) and 23 (Hastings), and (b) by slightly reducing some Republican advantages in other Districts.

I am overnighting a compact disk, called GOPlan, using the FREDs software which I have had prepared to express my thoughts. It covers the southern-most ten Congressional Districts only; that is, CD 14 (Goss) and CD 16 (Foley) and south. GOPlan focuses on my own District 19 and neighboring CDs 16, 20, 22 and 23.

Here is why I think GOPlan offers some advantages over the House-passed plan.

(a) All plans I have seen for CD23 suffer from a retrogression in black population (%NHB00Pop), which I believe has to do with the underlying demographics. GoPlan has less of this than the House Plan, albeit only fractionally (53.8% vs. 53.5%). I am advised that what is important to the DoJ in these cases is whether other measures are built into the plan to ameliorate the retrogression. Here GOPlan has a distinct advantage: it gives Rep. Hastings (CD 23) a 51 percentage point advantage in Democrat registered voters vs. only 44 percentage points for the House-passed plan.

(b) From a viewpoint of what is good for democracy, GOPlan also has merit. It reduces the incumbents' average advantage in own-party registered voters from a huge 22.4 percentage points to a still large 21.0 percentage points. More tellingly, GOPlan makes three of the ten districts in south Florida competitive versus only one in the House-passed plan. By "competitive" I mean a spread in % registered voters in each major party of ten percentage points or less. I think this measure of competitiveness and fairness will become increasingly of interest to the courts, especially since incumbents of both parties already enjoy such advantage as to make the voice of the people insignificant.

Geographically, GOPlan differs from the House-passed plan in several ways as far as CDs 16, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are concerned.

(a) The House plan attaches a long "arm" of Republican precincts in southeast Palm Beach County and northern Broward (Boca Raton, Deer Creek, Parkland and Coral Springs) to Rep Shaw's otherwise coastal district (CD22) changing its community of interest. GOPlan, in contrast, retains Shaw's coastal community of interest and extends his district to the north into Republican Martin and St. Lucie counties. Incidentally, the "arm" also includes my home and the heart of my political base.

(b) Instead of stripping Republican districts from CD 19 as outlined in the above-mentioned arm, GOPlan strips Democrat districts out of CD19 and attaches them to CD23 (Hastings). These districts include Century Village(Hillsboro Blvd.) and Kings Point (Delray) which are white, but are typically 90% Democrat. The DoJ will like this.

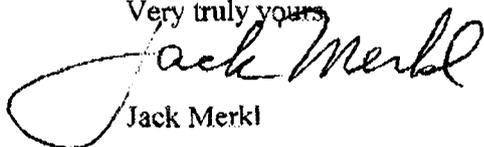
(c) GOPlan also leaves much of West Palm Beach in Rep Foley's CD16 and extends CD 16 into the southeast corner of Indian River County (Vero Beach). GoPlan also retains the western border of Rep. Foley's district, whereas the House plan has it extending almost to the west coast of Collier county.

(d) The result of GOPlan is to put Rep. Shaw in position to win in November by a landslide, to put Rep. Foley in position to win by a double landslide and to cut my disadvantage against Rep. Wexler in half.

As the Senate moves to adopt its plan for the U.S. Congress and the two houses reconcile, I hope that some of the thoughts expressed above can be accommodated. I am only a challenger for the Republican nomination in CD 19 in 2002, but I feel duty bound to represent other even-more qualified candidates that will come along in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. Their names are not known now, but GOPlan gives them voice now.

Thank you very much for making the redistricting process such an open matter this year. It speaks well of the Republican Legislature. If I can be of any assistance in explaining the above in more detail I would be happy to do so and to come to Tallahassee.

Very truly yours,



Jack Merkl

c: Locke Burt

MAR. 12, 2002

DEAR MR. WEBSTER.

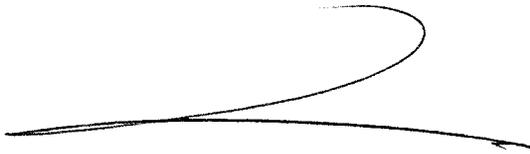
I READ, IN THE GAINESVILLE SUN,  
THAT WE MAY LOSE CONGRESS WOMAN  
KAREN THURMAN, DUE TO RE-DISTRICTING.

IS THIS CORRECT, SIR. ?

VERY TRULY YOURS

JACKSON SHELLHAMMER

A.S.N. 33181815



3/12/02

Dear Sen. Webster,

I'm writing in regards to Rep. Karen Thurman's gerrymandered new district. Stop being so political. Keep the district as close to the present boundaries as possible. Rep. Thurman isn't truly "in touch" with her constituents. She has represented us well.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Hagan-Sulokos

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March 12, 2002

The Honorable Daniel Webster, Chairman  
The Florida Senate  
Committee on Reapportionment  
404 S Monroe St, 103 Senate Office Building  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Webster:

As a citizen of Lehigh Acres, and a registered voter, I am writing to you to express my absolute opposition to any reapportionment of Southwest Florida that will take Lehigh Acres out of the Lee County voting district.

Lehigh Acres is an integral part of the business, cultural and social fabric of Lee County. To place Lehigh Acres in any district *other than* Lee County would be an inappropriate response to the more than 37,000 residents who call Lehigh Acres their home.

You and your fellow Congressmen/Congresswomen must act to serve your constituents in Lehigh Acres. **To place Lehigh Acres in a district other than Lee County would smack of gerrymandering and create the alienation of voters with the community.**

The many petitioners and other residents who feel that this cause is an important one have a strong, determined and united voice. We stand with them in urging your support.

**We implore you and your fellow legislators to assure us a place in the voting district of Lee County, *where we belong.***

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Conover", is written over a faint, illegible background.

Oliver Conover  
Executive Director  
Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce

**Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce**  
**4109 Lee Boulevard \* Lehigh Acres FL 33971**  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 757 \* Lehigh Acres FL 33970-0757  
**Telephone: 941-369-3322 \* Fax: 941-368-0500**  
Email: [lehighchamber@iline.com](mailto:lehighchamber@iline.com)