

Mr. Chairman, Members of this committee, Good Morning, and Welcome to Hendry County.

I am Janet Brumfield Taylor, I live in Clewiston, Harlem which is part of the 23rd. Congressional District. District 29, of Florida State Senate and District 77 of the Florida House of Representatives. I want to talk to you about the importance of keeping Harlem or including Clewiston in the 23rd. Congressional District.

First, I represent a predominately minority community, my collegiate will talk about rural areas, but I know that the redistricting is about the allocation of political power. Those who decide where our boundary lines are drawn decide where our future lies. They will decide who is represented and who is not. They will decide whether historically disadvantaged communities will remain disadvantaged or whether they will be given the same rights and representation to which every person is entitled. You will make those decisions ladies and gentlemen. You have that power and that responsibility.

In fairness to all concerned in this process. We ask you do what is best for every community. We want to keep our congressman as he has represented us well in Washington and his presence in our community is prevalent. We also need to keep our State Representative, as he knows our needs and feel Our compassion. Both men have represented us well, because they know and understand the needs of our rural towns, our schools and most of all their willingness to work with our local government has been beneficial to all. We want the process to be fair and the outcome will automatically be fair.

I hope the issues of setting forth-public criteria as to how districts will be drawn have been addressed. These criteria could directly affect racial minorities. The kind of census data you will use, the accuracy of the census data, is a real concern, as we know that the census undercounts minorities.

We do not want to lose our great representation for the sake of putting partisan politics above the wishes of the people of our community. We are the minutest part of the 23rd. Congressional district but we are well represented in all functions of Congressman. Clewiston High School students have benefited by way of scholarships from being a part of this congressional district. Congressman Hastings himself was the main

attraction in our community that netted over \$100,000. For construction of our new Harlem Library.

So to this committee please do not do anything that will disrupt the effective representation we now have. In closing, we just want fairness and inclusiveness.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Taylor

P.O. B. 1764

Clewiston, Fl. 33440

863-983-2729

Larry Hall, President
Florida Community Bank



155 North Bridge Street
LaBelle, Florida 33935-5088

863-675-1313
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September 21, 2001

Honorable Johnnie Byrd, Chairman
Procedural and Redistricting Council
P. O. Draw E
Plant City, Florida 33564

Re: Southwest Florida Redistricting

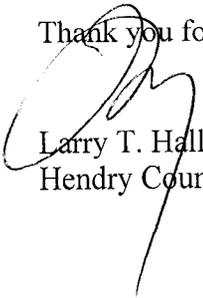
Dear Chairman,

As Area President for Florida Community Bank and a citizen of LaBelle (Hendry County), I would like to go on record in support of redistricting plans, which will maintain the geographical integrity of the Southwest Florida area. I am convinced that legislative districts drawn to enhance the voter base of a potential candidate is not in the best interest of all the citizens of the area or of the state. In the instances where I have observed this type of district it has failed to serve the best interest of the majority area or of the minority area attached to achieve some purpose other than equal representation of all of the citizens of the district.

The Southwest Florida area is a community of common interest with an integrated transport system; a regional educational network via Florida Gulf Coast University; joint involvement in regional agencies including the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; and a local economy that is regional in nature, with a strong reliance on agricultural, service and tourism industries in all counties. The population base in the southern portion of the state is concentrated along the east and west coast with a dramatic drop off as you move toward the interior counties. These interior counties are best represented by being attached to the most like population center that meshes with the business, cultural, and social climate, of the smaller interior county.

Let us urge each member to set aside partisan politics, self interest, and to create districts that best serve the individual citizen and voter, not the best interest of the potential candidate.

Thank you for your support,


Larry T. Hall, President]
Hendry County

**CITIZENS HIGHWAY INITIATIVE PROGRAM (CHIP)
(A rural county citizens transportation initiative)**

P. O. Box 757

LaBelle, Florida 33975

863-675-6007 863-675-8696 Fax

<u>GOLD MEMBERSHIP</u> Barbara S. Butler, Clerk of Circuit Ct. Hendry County City of Clewiston Florida Community Bank U.S. Sugar Corporation	<u>SILVER MEMBERSHIP</u> Alico, Inc. Florida Sugar Cane League Glades Electric Co-op Gulf Citrus Growers Association, Inc. Rust Farms, Inc. Ann Fussell-Thomas Southwest Florida Transportation Initiative	<u>BRONZE MEMBERSHIP</u> Ausken South, Inc. Bahama Bob's Dari-Creme Earnest H. Rawls Real Estate First Federal Savings Bank of the Glades Janice Groves Darrell R. Harris Jackson Citrus Jennifer James Lois Jean James Wilene D. Marshall Nisbet Enterprises, Inc. Southern DataStream, Inc. Teresa Nuzzo Emily Turner Burl Zorn	<u>DIRECTORS</u> Lester Baird Tom Boardman Janice Groves Larry T. Hall Jennifer James Craig Simmons
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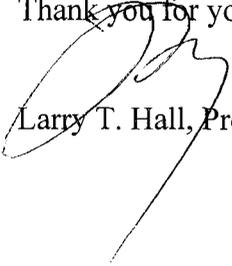
Dear Chairman,

As President of the Citizen's Highway Initiative Program (CHIP) a rural county citizen's transportation initiative, I would like to go on record in support of redistricting plans, which will maintain the geographical integrity of the Southwest Florida area. I am convinced that legislative districts drawn to enhance the voter base of a potential candidate is not in the best interest of all the citizens of the area or of the state. In the instances where I have observed this type of district it has failed to serve the best interest of the majority area or of the minority area attached to achieve some purpose other than equal representation of all of the citizens of the district.

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Thank you for your support,



Larry T. Hall, President

Ron Hamel
Gulf Citrus Growers



Ron Hamel
Executive Vice President
and
General Manager

September 21, 2001

The Honorable Johnnie Byrd, Chairman
Procedural and Redistricting Council
P. O. Drawer E
Plant City, FL 33564

Dear Representative Byrd:

On behalf of southwest Florida "Gulf" growers, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association would like to go on the record in support of redistricting plans which will enhance the collective interest of the citizens and businesses of southwest Florida. Our association represents 147 citrus growers and 114,000 acres of citrus in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. We produce about twenty-five percent of Florida's total citrus crop.

We feel that southwest Florida is a community of common interest with an integrated transportation system; a regional educational network via Florida Gulf Coast University; joint involvement in regional agencies including the southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; and a local economy that is regional in nature, with a strong reliance on agricultural, service and tourism industries in all counties.

Further, we feel that representatives who live, work and drive in southwest Florida will best understand the region's issues related to growth, transportation, education and the economy.

We have concerns that redistricting in southwest Florida, using bi-coastal or otherwise split districts, could ultimately result in less representation in one of the state's and nation's fastest growing regions.

In summary, the association feels that representation by leaders who are linked geographically to our region in the Florida legislature and in the US Congress is in the best interest of southwest Florida.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to continuing to work with the committee(s) in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Hamel".

Ron Hamel
Executive Vice President
General Manager

cc: Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, Vice Chair