



## Idaho State Senate

**SENATOR CHUCK WINDER**  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

November 3, 2021

Commissioner Bart Davis  
Co-chairman  
Commission of Reapportionment

Commissioner Dan Schmidt  
Co-chairman  
Commission of Reapportionment

Dear Co-chairs Davis and Schmidt:

Subject: 2021 Congressional Redistricting

This letter is an effort to express my personal opinion about the process the Commission of Reapportionment is going through at this time. Previously, the Idaho Congressional districts were based on a north and south line which divides the State into western and eastern congressional districts.

It is my understanding that the Commission is considering a map with a redistricting line dividing the State on a northern and southern axis. It is my viewpoint that the traditional division of western and eastern districts is the most appropriate to meet the Constitutional criteria and guidelines provided in the Idaho Code. Furthermore, the traditional redistricting map would maintain long-established communities of interest.

While we are all Idahoans, there are significant social and cultural differences between southern, eastern Idaho and northern Idaho. From the community standpoint, there are religious, economic, employment and many other differences that distinguish the two corners of our State. In addition, there is a distinction related to their news media feed. Eastern Idaho receives most of its news locally and from the Salt Lake City, Utah media market. On the otherhand, northern Idaho gets its news locally and from Spokane, Washington media. Therefore, these two areas would not be receiving the same news reports and education on issues that impact their daily lives.

In my opinion, significant factors justifying eastern and western districts relates to geographic and transportation limitations and distances. The proximity between southern, eastern Idaho and northern Idaho are restricted by roadless areas, wilderness and natural geological barriers.

Lastly, it is my recommendation that the Commission maintains the traditional north and south dividing line, as that would also be the least confusing to the electorate during election period. It would also be very beneficial for the citizens of Idaho to know and understand their candidates and where to vote during campaign seasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Winder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

Chuck Winder  
District 20 - Boise