

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL RENNER

DISTRICT 24

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August 12, 2015

The Honorable Bill Galvano, Chair
Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment
2000 The Capitol
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Jose R. Oliva, Chair
Florida House Select Committee on Redistricting
418 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairmen Galvano and Oliva:

I want to thank you and your respective committees for their hard work and diligent efforts with respect to congressional redistricting during this special session. Your task is a difficult one, but I have every confidence that the process will be a model of transparency and fairness under your leadership.

As a member of the St. Johns County delegation, we have received numerous calls from St. Johns residents who are concerned about the current base map (H000C9065), which proposes to divide St. Johns County between CD4 and CD6. Since redistricting in 2002, all of St. Johns County has been within one congressional district. In fact, our congressman, Ron DeSantis, is a resident of St. Johns County. Nevertheless, Congressman DeSantis' own residence and the majority of voters in St. Johns County would be redrawn into CD4 under the proposed base map. To date, the constituent calls we have received have been universally opposed to splitting the county in this fashion. Constituents are specifically concerned that splitting the county would:

- Weaken St. Johns County's role in selecting its representative to Congress;
- Lessen St. Johns County's importance to the elected member of either district, and thus undermine the county's ability to address federal issues of importance; and,

- Arbitrarily separate a community with common interests

Conversely, residents believe that keeping the county within CD6 will ensure a stronger voice in Congress for the unique issues facing St. Johns County, which is one of the fastest growing communities in Florida with a strong presence of veterans and significant federal interests. For the foregoing reasons, the constituents who have contacted our office strongly urge your committees to keep St. Johns County within CD6. I greatly appreciate your consideration of these concerns as your committee makes adjustments to the proposed base map. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Renner
State Representative, District 24

Committees & Subcommittees:

Flagler County Legislative Delegation V. Chair; St. Johns County Legislative Delegation V. Chair; Volusia County Legislative Delegation; Health & Human Services Committee; Health Innovation Subcommittee; Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee; Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee