

**Testimony before the Reapportionment Committee by Joshua S. Cole  
September 14, 2021**

Good Evening Distinguished Members of the Reapportionment Committee,

My name is Joshua Cole. My wife and I have been residents of the Town of Wilton since July 2007 and have two daughters ages 6 and 9.

I currently have the privilege of serving the Town of Wilton as an elected member of the Board of Selectman and also served for several years as an elected member of the Zoning Board of Appeals including two years as Chairman.

Like many of our neighbors, we moved to Wilton from New York for the charming small town feel, the bucolic landscapes and the excellent schools.

As you know, the Connecticut House of Representatives has 151 members and each member district represents approximately 22,600 residents. Wilton, a town of roughly 18,500 residents, is the largest municipality in the State without a resident State Representative or State Senator. Wilton is also the largest municipality in the state which is split into multiple districts, none of which are constitute 50% or more of the district.

The 143<sup>rd</sup> House District which includes the majority of Wilton, is split between Wilton and Norwalk, with each comprising approximately 45% of the District, and the remaining 10% of the District is located in Westport.

The interests of a city like Norwalk and a rural small town like Wilton are widely divergent, their issues are not the same and their perspectives are very different. A single elected state representative, who has only one vote in the House cannot, regardless of political party and despite good faith efforts, faithfully and effectively represent these three very different communities.

There are certainly situations where a Representative for the 143<sup>rd</sup> district will have the unenviable task of supporting a policy or piece of legislation which benefits one of the communities in the District to the detriment of one of the other communities in the District.

With the current configuration of the 143<sup>rd</sup> House District and the divergent interests of the communities that make up the District, Wilton is deprived of having a State Representative, regardless of party, whose primary focus and priority is Wilton and who can dedicate their time to make Wilton their top priority.

It is for these reasons that I respectfully ask for you to redraw the 143<sup>rd</sup> House District to separate Wilton and Norwalk and include Wilton in a district with another small rural town that shares similar issues and challenges.

I thank all of you for your time and service on this committee and hope that you will agree that Wilton deserves its own dedicated representative who will make Wilton their top priority.

Respectfully,

Joshua S. Cole  
Wilton, Connecticut