



Champaign County Farm Bureau

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Bradley Uken, *Manager*

Champaign County Board Members:

The Champaign County Farm Bureau works tirelessly on issues impacting our membership and all residents of the rural areas of the county. We, as Past Presidents of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, have engaged with both Democrats and Republicans on issues such as drainage, zoning, green energy ordinances, and police presence in rural areas. It has been our privilege to compromise and reach agreements that best serve all the residents, both urban and rural, of this great county.

The Champaign County Board is our most local form of government and the decisions you make each month have an outsized impact on the rural citizens of this county. Rural citizens depend upon your understanding of their needs, from road and bridge repairs by the county highway engineer to the impact that the sheriff's department's budget has on rural safety and health. The county directly provides rural citizens with more essential services than our more urban neighbors, who have their respective city, town, or village government to rely on for those essential services.

As such, redistricting is of critical importance to the rural citizens of the county. Redistricting is a once in a decade occurrence, so it is imperative that the process is inclusive, transparent, and takes into account the voice of all of the citizens in the county. Plan 11 is **NOT** the right map for this county moving forward, and we firmly believe that there is a better way to move forward with the redistricting process. We urge you to consider the maps that Mrs. Kloepfel submitted to the board for consideration and ask that you specifically consider Plan 1 and Plan 5A.

Both Plan 1 and Plan 5A will provide a greater voice to the rural and small-town residents of this county. It better maintains the communities of interest than Plan 11 and creates more compact districts that preserve the voice and representation of the rural areas of Champaign County.

As leaders of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, we pledged to serve our members and to leave our organization in a better place than when we started. The Champaign County Board has that same duty, the duty to serve all of the citizens of Champaign County and to leave this county in a better place than when you started your tenure on the board. Once again, we urge you to preserve the voice of the rural citizens of Champaign County and to enact either Plan 1 or Plan 5A.

Sincerely,

Lin Warfel – Tolono

Chris Murray – Dewey

Eric Suits – Penfield

Chris Hausman – Pesotum

Mike Briggs – Fisher

Chuck Ehler – Champaign

Scott Bidner – Mahomet

John Reifsteck – Champaign

Jerry Watson - Urbana

Steve Stierwalt - Sadorus

Steve Moser - Champaign

Kent Krukewitt - Homer