From:	Bimbola Akinbola
To:	Redistricting2012
Subject:	Support our diverse South Minneapolis neighborhoods!
Date:	Monday, March 05, 2012 12:37:23 PM

Dear Redistricting Group:

We write to you to ask for your support in keeping our diverse South Minneapolis neighborhoods together as depicted in the, “We All Win,” map in this link:

http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/567/view/

We live and work here. How we all came to live in this neighborhood is part of every cultural tradition in our country where communities develop based on mutual support and common need.
In this diverse community, our interests are tied together by linguistic, cultural, and life experiences, much like your own. “We All Win” is a fair, balanced, and needed approach to support the forward-looking planning of our city’s democracy and social vibrancy, which will create opportunity and representation.

As a benefit, it creates opportunities in 3 wards for the African American, Native American, and Somali communities. This is what our diverse Powderhorn tradition is about. In your final deliberations, we ask that you please keep Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Powderhorn, Central, and parts of Corcoran and Standish together in order to establish a 34.72% Latino voting age population – helping Latinos the ability to represent their specific interests today and 10 years from now.

Your decision on a final map will impact the lives of well over 40,000 Latino families and children who have invested in making Minneapolis a richer and healthier city. We know you will make your deliberations with deep thought and hope you can draw the lines in a way that will empower, and not divide, the Latino community.

Sincerely,

Bimbola Akinbola
Program Coordinator

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"Education is about healing and wholeness. It is about empowerment, liberation, transcendence, about finding and claiming ourselves and our place in the world."

-bell hooks