

Madison Southern High School is opposed to the realignment proposed earlier this month due to several factors. With the current teams in 5a, district 7, we have over the years fought bitter contest with these schools and have built up not only a following of fans but have also developed good, strong rivalries. It has been the opinion of many people that 2 of the strongest teams in 5a last year were in district 7 and we hope to continue this rivalry not only this year but in the years to come. We have a strong desire to be back into a district with Pulaski, South Laurel, Lincoln, and Southwestern, and they have a desire for us to keep the up the rivalries developed over the years together. This alignment is good for the district and is good for high school football as well. We understand that this is personal to us but we also understand that the numerous phone calls we have received have been laced with questions about the loss of history, tradition and competitiveness among the current schools. Not only has there been a tradition among the schools in the current district but over the last few years there have been a rivalry between region 7 and region 8 that will be lost, namely the one between Madison Southern and Harlan County. This game will also be lost to the realignment proposed if we are moved out of the 7th district, this is not good for high school football. We understand that the alignment process is not an easy one and doesn't come without its fair share of compromises. The 7th district currently has 6 teams and after realignment has 5, but has included Whitley County. North Laurel has indicated that their move to the 8th district was a non-issue with them but leaves that district with only four teams. If Madison Southern were moved back to the 7th district and Whitley to the 8th, that would leave both with 5 and the 6th district with 4. It is felt that a 4 team district in the 6th district instead of the 8th would benefit those teams most affected in this proposed alignment. Although we base our objections on the proposed alignment on the points mentioned above, there is also a large difference between the amounts of money that will be spent on travel to district games if the alignment is left unchanged. Currently for a bus to travel to the 4 teams we are requesting to join in the new alignment, Pulaski, Southwestern, South Laurel, and Lincoln, the round trip for one bus is around 318 miles. This amount is doubled for two busses. If our district remains unchanged under the new proposal the round trip total for the new district would be around 514 miles, doubled for two busses. With two buses, the difference between districts would be around 408 miles and at the current Madison County rate of 1.75 dollars per mile that is a direct cost of 714 dollars that would not be spent if we stayed in the 7th district. This cost is not bore solely by one school but is still an amount split among schools base on home/away schedule. We only ask for reconsideration of our proposed move to the 6th district based on the arguments stated and that we remain in the 7th district to continue to build and promote high school football that is in the best interest of Kentucky.

Thank you,  
Calvin Creech  
Athletic Director Madison Southern High School