

Constituency Boundary Commission  
Room 1.65  
Custom House  
Dublin 1.

Members of the Commission a chairde,

I write to add my support to the case presented by Cavan County Council, the Anglo Celt newspaper and other publicly elected and non-elected voices of the Breifne county and the constituency of Cavan and Monaghan for the reunification of County Cavan and the maintenance of the integrity of the county boundaries of both Cavan and Monaghan consequent on the current review being undertaken regarding Dáil constituency boundaries.

As a Dáil Deputy in my twentieth year of service, I have acquired a personal knowledge of the deeply felt identity of the people of Co. Cavan whom I have been honoured to represent, along with the people of my home county of Monaghan, since 1997.

The severing of the county of Cavan in advance of the February 2016 General Election dislocated a significant section of that county's populace from the real politic of Cavan. Reuniting Co. Leitrim, a demand of that county's electorate over several years, at the expense of the people of Co. Cavan was, with respect, irrational and offensive to all impacted and to many, many, thousands more who hold the maintenance of the integrity of their county boundaries sacrosanct for not just political representation purposes, but very especially for political representation purposes. There are of course many other sound reasons, emotional attachment being among the least important.

The dislocated people of west Cavan, who now must look to Leitrim and Sligo for national representation, who must depend on Leitrim and Sligo voices and who are invariably treated to a diet of Leitrim and Sligo issues, are sore and vexed. They continue to be part of the local authority administrative area of Co. Cavan, voting for Cavan County Council candidates in local election contests. This is the tier of political life where young and not so young aspiring national representatives cut their political teeth. However, when it comes to elections to our national Parliament, Dáil Éireann, these electors must look to the selection presenting in counties Leitrim and Sligo, no longer able to continue their support for councillors and candidates for local government in their own county and in whom they have often times a long and keen personal interest.

The reunification of Co. Cavan, and of the forty years in being this year constituency of Cavan Monaghan, is an imperative.

I implore the Commission's acceptance of the sincerely held and articulated case of voices across all political opinion for the restoration of the integrity of the Cavan Monaghan constituency. The pattern of a succession of General Election results across the dislocated area of Co. Cavan will confirm that I support this case not for personal or party political advantage. Others would be the greater beneficiaries than I and my party. I support this proposition because it is both right and just. It is what the people across Co. Cavan want and it is no more than their deserve.

Please, in recognition of the importance of inclusive citizenship, accede to this request.

Kindly acknowledge at your convenience.

Is mise,  
Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD