



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Michael J. Moran
House Chair – Special Joint Committee on Redistricting
State House- Room 443
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Moran:

I am writing in response to an inquiry from the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting regarding the state legislative district (SLD) boundaries as represented in the 2010 Census products. The Census Bureau agrees that the boundaries as represented in 2010 Census data products do not match the boundaries available for download from the Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS). This data set has been identified by your office as the SLD plan that should have been submitted. The Census Bureau boundaries displayed in the 2010 Census data products are representative of those submitted by our official liaison during Phase 1 of the Redistricting Data Program (RDP).

In 2004, the bi-partisan leadership of the Massachusetts General Assembly and the Governor's office identified the Secretary of State's (SoS) office as the Census Bureau's liaison. We worked with the SoS's office from March of 2006 through July of 2006 to replicate the SLD boundaries provided by the state into our TIGER database. This process included several data exchanges: the initial plan, the verification of the plan, a final change to the already verified plan, and a final verification of the final plan submitted. It is during this final change to the plan that the differences from the MassGIS plan were introduced. In email received from the SoS's office these final changes were made to accommodate a "court ordered redistricting done in Massachusetts in 2004 (Chapter 125 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2001)."

There will be an opportunity during Phase 4 of the RDP to update the state legislative district boundaries as maintained by the Census Bureau. During this phase, the Redistricting Data Office will collect the post 2010 Census redistricted congressional and state legislative district plans. The Census Bureau will re-tabulate the 2010 Census data to those new boundaries.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or Assistant Chief, James Whitehorne, at 301-763-4039.

Sincerely,


Cathy McCully, Chief
2010 Census Redistricting Data Office