

To the Senate State Government Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to submit formal testimony to the committee on redistricting. I have concerns about the process and the actual maps

1. I ( and many others citizens) want to submit formal testimony that becomes part of the public record. I expect such testimony would be available for public review, like the May 26, 2021 testimony .
2. In 2011, the Senate SGC presented a "shell" bill ( SB 1249) for both first and second consideration on the Senate floor. The actual text of the bill, with the district descriptions, was released 14 hours before the final senate vote. In 2021, I expect that the Senate SGC will transparently share the bill with the public and give time ( several days minimum) for comment and review and edits prior to considerations and a floor vote.
3. I strongly suggest that the committee post the times dates and sites for the future public hearings and develop an easy way to accept public testimony, both oral and written. I am sending this email as that is what both Sen Argall's and Sen Street's offices instructed me to do: it seems casual and unwieldy. It is easy for email to be overlooked
4. I request transparency on who draws the maps and what data was considered as well as the reasoning behind any county, city, and municipality divisions.

I am a retired physician living Elkins Park, in Montgomery County. Montgomery County was severely gerrymandered in the 2011 redistricting process. We were divided into 5 congressional districts, though we had enough population to have our own congressional representative. None of the 5 representatives lived in our county. Our commissioners had to deal with 5 not too interested representatives when our county experienced issues related to the federal government. These representatives had no accountability to our county or its citizens. This is not the way our government is supposed to work .Please do not repeat this.

I am very tired of PA gerrymandering. The 2011 congressional gerrymandering created a series of safe districts. These safe districts create a deep partisan divide in the state and in the nation and paralyzes problem solving. The main challenge faced by such representatives is in a primary; the district is drawn to be "safe" for the party. The divide is evident in Washington DC where bipartisan work has ground almost entirely to a halt. We are a moderate nation governed by extremists from both parties, thanks to gerrymandering.

A democracy depends on voters choosing their representatives: in 2011 politicians in PA chose their voters for congressional districts. Voters were stuck with "Goofy Kicking Donald" and other bizarre district lines. I want congressional districts that are fair, that do not favor a political party and that respect the PA communities. The purpose of district lines is not to protect or punish any incumbent, nor is it to protect a political party's power in Harrisburg or in Washington DC. Instead a fair districts reflects the communities as they exist and does not try to crack, pack or otherwise distort the citizens power whether rural or urban. I hope the 2021 districts you draw will conform to our state constitution and to objective standards of fairness. I also want the preliminary map to be publicly vetted before a final Senate vote

Thank you

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