

Mr. Sembach:

I'm a lifelong Pennsylvania resident who pays attention to state government - I'm asking you to forward my recommendations below to the committee this week.

In 2011, my family residence was very purposefully drawn into the very purposefully gerrymandered Congressional 2nd District.

We all remember the national shame and embarrassment wrought on us by the infamous 2011 7th district.

Well, that 2011 2nd Cong district was not much better -- it provided very little balanced representation to me or my family.

Most PA residents surely expect another gerrymandered Congressional map in 2021 -- just what 90+% of PA residents loathe about our redistricting process.

MY RECOMMENDATIONS - Please Share with The Committee As My Testimony

The Senate State Government Committee - with its joint responsibility (with House SG committee) to deliver our new 17 Congressional district maps: should:

1. Declare publicly (and repeatedly) their specific criteria for drawing our 17 new maps - and why those criteria were chosen - BEFORE YOU PUBLICLY SUBMIT YOUR NEW MAPS!

a. Equivalent population per district (@765k) is a legal requirement - so what else are the primary driver(s) for drawing these new districts?

b. Avoidance of county splits? Compact districts? Guaranteed R majority rule thru 2030? *Maps that the Governor will sign?

At this time, we have no clue what mapping priorities are to be used!

Personally, I prefer that you:

c. Minimize county splits (max of 1 per county)

d. Eliminate all voting precinct splits

e. Ensure that majority minority districts are created

2. Open up the committee's mapping portal so PA citizens can submit maps - and that the committee members & public can see these maps.

3. Ensure that committee members who review citizen maps or testimony send an electronic confirmation to submitting citizens that their efforts were reviewed.

3. Start working jointly with the House SGC -- seems a waste to work separately.

We don't want courts drawing our maps - do your job for all PA citizens, not what's right for your next election or party leadership mandates.

You have an opportunity to remove the shame of the 2011 redistricting process.

Unlike 2011, lots of PA citizens are watching your redistricting behavior.

Thanks you for your time and attention.

Rich Rafferty

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