

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:38:07 AM

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Daniel
Last Name: Riegel
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

SB 6 - Congressional Districts (Huffman)

Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Riegel. I live in Austin, Texas, and I oppose this bill along with the associated Congressional map. As you heard in many testimonies, Texas has seen tremendous growth in the current census cycle, and the overwhelming majority of the growth (approximately 95%) came from communities of color.

The proposed Congressional map does not reflect the growth patterns, and in fact goes to extreme levels of gerrymandering to disenfranchise racial minorities, depriving communities of fair representation.

The author keeps saying the maps are color blind and abide by law by not deviating from population count. However, failure to perform a racial impact analysis is a clear sign of ill intent when countless civil rights organizations and citizens publicly requested the analysis.

Note that the Voting Rights Act does not require proof of intent, just proof of harm to protected groups.

I live in Austin, which has been historically cracked and diluted with rural populations far from us. While I am happy that the new map will draw me out of Chip Roy's district, the current map disenfranchises vast numbers of Texans of color.

Despite the fact that our growth was 95% in communities of color, this map increases the number of majority white districts in a blatant power grab by the controlling party.

The map fails to create competitive districts, packing communities of color in as few districts as possible and cracking the remaining racial minorities to dilute their voting power.

Our neighboring Williamson County grew by 44% since the last census with 77% coming from communities of color. However, the map splits these racially diverse communities into TX-10, 17, and 31 pairing them with far-off, rural white communities with few common interests and needs.

This entire process is undemocratic, as independent committees should be in charge of drawing maps, and we should be provided much more time to review maps prior to any hearings.

New maps should best serve Texas communities and reflect the changing demographics all around

the state, but what the author proposes here is appalling, does not reflect Texas population, includes illegal racial disenfranchising, and should be rejected by this committee.

