

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Friday, March 24, 2023 9:58:59 AM

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Date: 2023-03-24  
First Name: Haseeba  
Last Name: Sharwani  
Title: NA  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Richmond  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

: Dear Senators of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, My name is Haseeba Sharwani, and I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am a Pakhtun American. I live in Fort Bend County in Texas Senate District 18. Three of my children and my grandchildren live here as well, and I am very invested in a Texas that can provide representation and opportunity for them. I am against the proposed Senate map, S2168, and against this redistricting process. This process has been rushed, and members of the public such as myself have not had enough time to provide input on the map. In addition, this committee's chairwoman has already put forth a Senate Bill, S.B. 375, to pass the Senate map already in place. Because of this, this committee strikes me as lacking good faith in accepting public testimony. Public feedback on how the Senate map can be better is important because the current map is unrepresentative of Texas. Less than 40 percent of Texans are white, but a majority of the 31 Senate districts drawn are majority-white. Communities of color have been subject to gerrymandering in order to achieve this. This fragmenting has been done in Fort Bend County, where I and many members of my family live. That county has been split among Senate Districts 13, 17, and 18. Where Fort Bend is split among Senate Districts 17 and 18 is particularly unfair; it has been lumped in with less populated, rural counties that do not share interests with the diverse and denser population of Fort Bend. Fort Bend is also where the AAPI population is the highest in Texas. We have a vibrant AAPI community here with distinct interests. If I drive out of Fort Bend into the other counties in my Senate District, I am very unlikely to see anyone who looks like me or my family. I am very unlikely to

hear AAPI languages or find AAPI businesses. Yet, all of these counties are part of the same Senate district. The same is true for Senate District 17. This is not okay, and it makes it more difficult for minority Texans like the AAPI community to elect candidates of our choice. Redistricting affects my family and my community. My young grandchildren will be voters after 2030 and before 2040. The next time redistricting happens, those maps will determine their voting power. That means you, as Senators of this committee, are deciding who can be elected to hold the mapmaking power that will determine my grandchildren's right to vote. I ask you take this power seriously. Provide at least a month of more opportunities for public input, and take that input into account to make a more representative map. Keep Fort Bend County and other communities of interest together as much as possible. And across Texas, stop dividing communities on racial lines. Thank you.

