I registered to speak today at the hearing, but unfortunately with the time change I am now commuting in my car during the hearing. But I did want to include some points that I think are very important for consideration regarding the redistricting of Houston.

I would encourage you to make sure that the new maps fairly represent the voting patterns of Texas. Using any other measure like race or demographic is not representative of the Texans that use their voice to vote. Secondly I would like you to consider that districts should reflect commuting patterns since transportation funding is greatly impacted by which congressional district a person lives in. Third I would like for legislators to take into consideration future suburban growth when drawing the maps so that we don’t end up with disproportionate representation like we have in Harris county for example. Also communities of interest should be respected and bridges between urban areas should be avoided. Lastly an independent panel does not make sense since the panel will be made up of people who are coming to the situation with a viewpoint in their own agenda. The panel would be an elected by the people and therefore an accountable to the people.

Legislative districts are substantially equal in total population according to section 2 of article 1 of the US Constitution. These districts should establish the constitutional guarantee of one person, One vote, and the idea that voters have approximately equal voting power. Thank you for your consideration!