To: The Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, and other members of the Texas Senate’s Special Committee on Redistricting

Re: Comments on the redistricting of Congressional districts in Texas

I urge the Committee to introduce, in the current legislative session, legislation that:

- Establishes a non-partisan Redistricting Commission composed of persons with relevant expertise, while excluding legislators; and

- Prohibits political and racial gerrymandering; and

- Results in the creation of fair and representative maps through a transparent process.

Given that data from the US Census Bureau will be released on or around 9/30/2021, time exists to pass legislation in Texas leading to the creation of a non-partisan Redistricting Commission for the 2021 redistricting effort.

Why establish a non-partisan Redistricting Commission? Primarily to move away from the harm done by severe gerrymandering Texas is known for. This article lists the ten most extreme examples of gerrymandering in the U.S. Houston and Austin made the list: https://thefulcrum.us/worst-gerrymandering-districts-example/9-northwestern-ohio

This article lists Texas as one of the most severely gerrymandered states in the country, with a noted reference to racial gerrymandering: https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/most-gerrymandered-states

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Regards,

Lynne LeMon
League of Women Voters, member