I’m a lifelong Texan. I’m retired, and I live in Austin near the South Congress shopping district that’s just south of the river. It’s a vibrant area with a diverse mix of both young and older professionals (many of whom work for high-tech companies), artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, and active seniors—much like the rest of Austin. We were very well represented by Lloyd Doggett until the Texas legislature gerrymandered our district, placing us in a skewed district that resembled a string bean and stretched almost all the way to the Texas border. Since then, I’ve continued to vote, but due to the skewed map, I’ve been very poorly represented by US House representatives who consistently ignore my voice.

I urge the Texas Senate to draw fair maps designed to let all Texans’ voices be heard instead of drawing maps to favor a specific political party (and, consequently, have the gerrymandered maps end up in court because they violate the voting rights of Texans like me). Please ensure that you draw fair maps, not partisan maps.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please ensure that my comments are included as part of the public record regarding the Texas Legislature’s 2021 redistricting proceedings.