Message:
You Machiavellians in charge of congressional redistricting in the TX Senate just confirmed your hypocrisy and lack of scruples: do whatever it takes to win no matter how unfair, immoral, or inhumane it is. Instead of using the new census numbers to undo the current gerrymandered congressional district morass, you have chosen to compound it by refusing to accurately reflect the 2020 Census data that shows 95 percent of Texas’ population growth came from people of color and was centered in urban and suburban communities. Your cowardice and greed in drawing these new maps are an egregious attack on the democratic principle of each person having a vote that counts. Mine hasn’t for decades due the parceling of Austin among five or six districts. Votes from the cities and suburbs of and around El Paso, San Antonio, Austin (my hometown for 43 years), Houston, and Dallas-Fort Worth are drastically diluted.

Williamson County, part of the Austin/Travis County metro area, is an excellent example of both the demographic changes and how the new maps were further gerrymandered across the entire state. Williamson County grew by 44% in the last decade, and 77% of that growth came from diverse communities (including 26% from the Latino community, and 21% from the Asian community), but TX-10, TX-17 and TX-31 split these communities, pairing them with far-off, rural, white communities. A proposed district in San Antonio is doughnut-shaped completely encircling another district. A resident in East TX described her new district as having the shape of a Pokemon character.

Each and every Texan has a right to a fair, competitive, and inclusive congressional district. Perhaps turning the task over to NASA is the way to go. The whole world knows what their scrupulously accurate use of data and algorithms has accomplished. Now is the time and redistricting is the opportunity for the Texas Legislature to act with integrity and humanity.