My name is Pamela Susan Luton, and I am representing myself.

I grew up in Baytown, Texas, and moved to Austin in 1973 to attend the University of Texas. I have lived in the Austin area since that year. From 1990 to the present I have lived in Hays County. My daughters attended schools in the Dripping Springs ISD from 1990 to 2002.

With regard to redistricting, what has happened increasingly in the last few decades is totally unjust. The Legislature has failed to carry out what it is charged with by both the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution: to draw district maps according to certain criteria, among them, complying with the federal Voting Rights Act – namely that the resulting districts cannot have neither the purpose nor the effect of “abridging the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or language group.”

This must change during the current redistricting process. Redistricting is not supposed to be carried out so that current politicians can make their re-election more certain, and only their values more likely to dominate all Texans’ lives. Redistricting is supposed to reflect the ethnic make-up of the population. That make-up has changed considerably, as reflected in the 2020 census. It is your duty to form districts that are in line with this changed make-up – to make sure that all Texans can have their votes count when they are electing the people who are going to represent them in the state government.