From:
 applications.administrator@capitol.local

 To:
 Senate Redistricting

 Subject:
 INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

 Date:
 Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:25:01 PM

 Attachments:
 RCBrooks Comments for TX Senate Map.pdf

Date: 2021-09-30 First Name: Roy Last Name: Brooks Title: Commissioner Organization: Tarrant County Precinct One Address: City: Fort Worth State: TX Zipcode: Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message: Dear Chair Huffman,

My name is Roy Charles Brooks and I serve as Tarrant County Commissioner for Precinct 1 in Tarrant County. I have served as Commissioner for seventeen years. Before being elected, I was served as administrator for precinct one under Commissioner Dionne Bagsby, Tarrant County's first African American County Commissioner.

I have testified twice now before the Senate Redistricting Committee on my desire for Texas Senate District 10 to remain a coalition-crossover district where African American and Hispanic voters could come together to elect candidates of their choice. In my testimony, I have gone into great detail on Tarrant County's demographic changes. I have made clear the desire of my constituents to keep Senate District 10 intact.

During my testimony on September 11th, I said the Senate Redistricting committee has a perfect track record of ignoring my concerns and moving forward with proposed plans drawn to intentionally disenfranchise minority voters in Tarrant County. With the passage of the Committee Substitute to Senate Bill 4, you have again followed the same destructive and discriminatory path to silence the voices of my constituents and black and brown voters across Tarrant County.

Since 2010, the population of African American, Hispanic, and Asian American voters has significantly increased throughout our county. At the same time, the Anglo population has declined. In response, you have eliminated the only Senate district where minority voters in Tarrant County can elect a candidate of their choice. A district ordered by federal courts in 2011 after the Senate attempted to dismantle SD10 and crack minority voters into a rural district – exactly as you are attempting to do today.

I am not alone in my calls on the committee and the Chair to immediately remedy the proposed plan by, at a minimum, restoring Senate District 10 to its benchmark. I was beyond disappointed in the Chair of the committee opposing Senator Powell's committee amendment to restore Senate District 10 at the September 28th committee meeting. This amendment was requested by multiple minority leaders in testimony before your committee. Instead, the committee, again, intentionally ignored our calls.

As you approach the passage of these maps on the Senate floor, I write with one last request to restore Senate District 10 as a district where minority voters can elect candidates of their choice. You have time to do the right thing.

The voices of minority elected officials and local leaders have made abundantly clear how the proposed Senate map will silence the voices of our constituents and neighbors – it is my prayer you will listen to our calls.

Sincerely,

Roy Charles Brooks Tarrant County Commissioner Precinct 1





**ROY CHARLES BROOKS** County Commissioner Precinct No. 1

September 30, 2021

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Roy Charles Brooks Tarrant County Commissioner Precinct 1