Texas has prided itself on being exceptional, and I used to enjoy traveling around the country and hearing folks recount their good thoughts about or memories of our state. However, as our Texas leaders and representatives continue to bow to political impulses instead of the will of the people, our state is diminished.

If you deny our citizens fair representation, you are assuring that we Texans are regarded as citizens of a substandard state instead of one deserving of our pride. Please do not do this. Please do not tell our children that they need to go elsewhere to be heard and respected. Please do not have Texas remain the butt of jokes and a state to be marginalized for its inability to approach issues with reason rather than passion. Please be bigger than the moment and draft a legislative map that truly represents the state and its people.