From: <u>applications.administrator@capitol.local</u>

To: <u>Senate Redistricting</u>

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 4:45:37 PM

Date: 2021-09-29 First Name: Julie Last Name: Lowenberg

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Proposed Congressional Map

The Census is clear that 95% of all growth in Texas during the past decade occurred in the AA, Latino, and AAPI communities and was centered in urban and suburban communities. Any fair map must reflect the diversity of our state and contain more districts where people of color can choose elected officials who share their background and values. Any map that doesn't do that is a flawed map.

Instead of seizing its opportunity to undo current gerrymandering and draw a fair Congressional map that reflects census data, the Texas Legislature's proposed map is gerrymandered and clearly ignores community input and the census data. The map does not give Texas voters the fair representation and fair maps they deserve.

Texas legislators failed to create a single competitive seat across 38 districts. Despite the fact that the growth in Texas came almost entirely from people of color, the map actually increases the number of majority-white districts. Votes from the cities and suburbs of and around El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth are drastically diluted.

In North Texas, African-American voters are packed into TX-30, while Latino voters in Tarrant and Dallas County are fragmented between TX-6 and TX-33. North Dallas, Collin, and Denton Counties experienced significant population growth, especially amongst Asian American populations, but these communities are split between four congressional seats, TX-03, TX-04, TX-26, and TX-32. TX-06 pairs heavily Latino communities in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro with rural, predominantly white counties over 140 miles away, while winding TX-33 as a loop around TX-06 crossing the Dallas and Fort Worth County border twice.

The proposed Congressional map is unfair and unacceptable. Legislators

must hold additional hearings that allow public input and create a new Congressional map that reflects community input and the census data.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.