From: applications.administrator@capitol.local

To: Senate Redistricting

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45:50 PM

Attachments: Cheryl Benson Redistricting Written-Testimony 10-4-21.pdf

Date: 2021-10-04 First Name: Cheryl Last Name: Benson

Title: Mrs.

Organization: Self

Address:

City: Montgomery State: Texas Zipcode: Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

October 4, 2021

Dear Special Committee on Redistricting:

I am Cheryl Benson, a resident of Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas, representing myself. My written testimony expresses my concern for the proposed Texas redistricting plan and map gerrymandering.

The 2020 census shows that the Texas population has grown 16% since 2010, with a 95% increase being people of color, but the map reflects an increased number of majority-white districts. Regrettably, Texas's history of gerrymandered maps has maintained the disparity of representation.

I am also concerned about how divided our country is, and gerrymandering and map manipulation will worsen the current social climate.

Therefore, I want:

- a) redistricting in Texas to be a transparent and fair process,
- b) legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against people of color,
- c) the committee to draw fair, competitive maps and represent ALL Texans, and
- d) work to ending map manipulation and gerrymandering.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Benson