From: applications.administrator@capitol.local

To: Senate Redistricting

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 10:44:39 AM

Date: 2021-10-03 First Name: Margaret Last Name: Kercher

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address:
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode:
Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

The census showed that 95% of all growth in Texas occurred in the African American, Latino, and Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Any fair map must reflect the current diversity of our state. I urge this committee to consider the reality of the new census by allowing people of color the real opportunity to choose the candidates of their choice, instead of diluting this opportunity.

The Asian American community is the fastest growing demographic in Texas. Where I live, the AAPI population in Travis County has grown by 20%. We need representation which reflects the population and can voice our needs and issues. We need more opportunity districts for our communities.

From my personal experience, the stereotype of the Asian American community here in Central Texas is still commonly believed: a community full of hardworking and nondisruptive people. A community which tends to be disengaged because they are financially comfortable. Our community can only voice and chip away at these misrepresentations and misleading generalizations if we are able to truly vote for someone who will represent our community. To do so, we need a fair and open process to create fair districts.

I urge this committee to hold additional in-person and virtual hearings that allow public input from the entire state. I hope this input and the census data will help create fair districts for a new Senate map as well as for US Congress and TX House. Please continue to allow a fair and open process by providing at least 14 days for the public to review additional maps, 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps, keeping a record of all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps, and providing analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

Thank you for your consideration.