

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:16:37 AM

Date: 2023-03-24
First Name: Beverly
Last Name: Powell
Title: Former State Senator, District 10
Organization: self
[REDACTED]
City: Fort Worth
State: TX
[REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Members of the Texas State House and State Senate From: Former Texas State Senator Beverly Powell Re: Illegal Dismantling of Texas Senate District 10 Date: March 9, 2023 Serving in the Texas State Senate, representing Senate District 10 (“SD 10”) and the people of Tarrant County, was the honor of my life. I was dismayed when Senator Huffman introduced a redistricting plan in 2021 that tore apart SD 10, cracking its predominantly Black and Latino voters into multiple districts in order to silence their voice in the Senate. I warned Senator Huffman as well as all my colleagues in the Senate and House that the map was discriminatory. It remains discriminatory today, and the map below shows in blue circles the minority population that was cracked apart from the prior version of SD 10. I show you this now so you are fully aware as you are called to vote upon the maps this session. The current version of SD 10 violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. I also attach hereto the letter, court decision, and maps I previously submitted when redistricting was undertaken in 2021. [See images and pdf attached] In May of 2022, the three-judge federal court reviewing Texas’s redistricting plan acknowledged that the “the redrawing of SD 10 results not just in an incremental diminishment of minority voting strength but also in the loss of a seat in which minorities were able to elect candidates they preferred” and that there was strong evidence of “a discriminatory effect, strengthening an inference of discriminatory intent.” The court also found that the historical context of SD 10—with a federal court invalidating the 2011 effort to dismantle it—likewise was “evidence [that] weights in favor of an inference of discriminatory intent.” Moreover, the court found that Senator Huffman’s stated rationale for dismantling SD 10 was not true and that she was “evasive.” The court concluded that the newly configured SD 10 was “not consistent with principles such as core retention, geographic compactness, or combining communities of interest” and that “it is certainly not true that the district ‘needed population,’” as Senator Huffman repeatedly insisted, and that “Senator Huffman’s smirk [during the floor debate] suggests that she may well have known as much.” Ultimately, the court concluded that Senator Huffman was “disingenuous” in explaining the changes to SD 10 and that her conduct “may constitute ‘bad faith’ in a colloquial sense.” We must do better than this. The legislature must act in good faith—in every sense of that phrase. With redistricting once again before the legislature, now is the time to return SD 10 to its pre-2021 configuration and give Tarrant County’s substantial minority population a voice once more in the Senate.

[REDACTED]

