

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:47:35 AM

Date: 2023-03-24
First Name: Homa
Last Name: Hafizi
Title: N/A
Organization: self

[REDACTED]
City: Katy
State: TX
[REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Senators of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, My name is Homa Hafizi, and I am testifying on behalf of myself against the proposed Senate map and this process. I am an Iranian American, and I have lived in the Greater Houston Area for over thirty-three years. I live in Fort Bend County in Texas Senate District 18. First of all, this redistricting testimony process does not seem genuine, and it has not provided enough time for the public to testify. The head of this committee has already introduced Senate Bill 375 to pass the Senate map already in place. If you have already decided you want the current map, then why are you collecting testimonies? You will have to change the map if you are serious about taking public testimony into account. I am suspicious of this process where you pretend you are listening to the public. Second, the map itself is problematic. I don't feel represented by my Senator, Senator Kolkhorst. She represents a lot of different counties, most of which are rural and mostly white. Where I live in Fort Bend County, the people are very diverse and the AAPI population is the highest concentration in Texas. There are enough people in Fort Bend for it to stay together in one Senate District, but instead it is split across three districts. I do not share interests with the other counties in my district, and I do not think my Senator can represent me fairly. In fact, I think she does not want to represent the minorities in her district. She has filed a bill, S.B. 147, that would prevent citizens of four countries including Iran and China from purchasing any property in Texas. I am a dual citizen of Iran and the United States, and this bill would have prevented me from buying a home. Senator Kolkhorst's bill does not clarify that U.S. citizens or others with legal status are exempt. She felt comfortable proposing this and alarming my community because her district is structured to let her ignore us. She does not care about us because she knows in advance that she doesn't need our vote. Diluting the voting power of minorities is wrong, and feeling comfortable discriminating is wrong. Last, this map overall is discriminatory. Most of the 31 Senate districts drawn are majority- white, but less than 40 percent of Texans overall are white. This map is undemocratic. This committee needs to extend the public input process, and edit the maps to keep diverse places like Fort Bend county together and give people like me a fair chance at real representation.

[REDACTED]