

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:38:36 PM

Date: 2023-03-23
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Title: N/A
Organization: none

[REDACTED]
City: CORPUS CHRISTI
State: TX
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am 41 year resident of Corpus Christi and I am very pleased that Senator Hinojosa represents me. I am a member of the League of Women Voters Corpus Christi area but I am submitting these written comments to you only on my own behalf. In 2019 federal Judge Rodriguez told you that you must have a “fair and open process” when redistricting based on the 2020 Census. That was so that the new maps would result in fair representation for all Texans. In 2021 you failed miserably on both how you redrew the lines and the results of your line drawing. In 2021 you heard many witnesses tell you how they wanted the process to work. None told you to do what was done: Senator Huffman met with Senators behind closed doors and gave each what they wanted to the extent she could. What resulted was an incumbent protection program instead of ensuring fair representation for voters. There was at least one exception: you dismembered a minority opportunity district, District 10, with the apparent objective of handing it to long time powerful House member Phil King, who became the new District 10 Senator. A former Texas GOP Senator believes the destruction of prior District 10 violates the Voting Rights Act. See GOP Sen. Kel Seliger says Texas violated federal voting rights law | The Texas Tribune (1/26/22). Even worse, instead of doing your duty to use your judgment to draw the Congressional lines, you simply took orders and adopted the map the lawyer for the Texas Republican Congressional delegation, Christopher Gober, sent you. By doing so you flagrantly flouted Judge Rodriguez’s command to draw a map in a fair and open way. Senator Huffman, to have an open redistricting process, please release the map you received from attorney Gober to the public at this time instead of continuing to refuse to do so. Texas got two more members of Congress based on its population growth. That growth was driven 95% by minority Texans. Yet the new Congressional map produced zero new minority opportunity districts. The 2020 Census showed that the Anglo and Latino populations are in a dead heat, but actually Latinos almost surely outnumber Anglos because the State’s demographer told you that Latinos are significantly undercounted. Despite these numbers, the Senate, House, and Congressional maps are remarkably consistent: For every Latino majority district, there are 3, or close to 3, Anglo districts. For detailed information about this go to: Texas redistricting map: Find your new districts | The Texas Tribune (10/22/21, updated 8/30/22). See also Texas GOP draws two districts that dilute power of Hispanic, Asian voters | The Texas Tribune (10/15/21). Senator Huffman said that she drew the Senate map “race blind,” and that she “understood” that the same was done with the Congressional map. Maps that have a 3 to 1 discriminatory impact are illegal even if the line drawer was not motivated by discriminatory intent. Senator Huffman, in 2021 by supposedly drawing the lines “race blind,” you ignored their

impact on minority voters, thereby clearly violating the Voting Rights Act. Closer to home, Corpus Christi was split into two Senate districts based in the Valley. Corpus Christi is the eighth largest city in Texas. It should be the focus of one of the 31 Senate districts. You could draw the map to do that if you wished. As Texas's eighth largest city, Corpus Christi is entitled to have a Senator where it is his or her primary focus instead of having two Senators where Corpus Christi is secondary to other parts of their districts. Senator Hinojosa is an exemplary Senator, but I must respectfully disagree with his comments yesterday in this committee about dividing Corpus Christi's Senate representation. Our very capable County Judge in 2021 asked that Nueces County not be divided and her judgment was on target. When doing your work this session, please incorporate by reference into the record the many public written and oral redistricting comments presented to you in 2020 and 2021. And a double "Amen" to the 1/27/23 morning comments of Joshua Hebert and David Runnels II. Judges Guaderrama, Brown, and Smith: the Texas legislature in 2021 ignored the command of your colleague Judge Rodriguez to have "fair and open" redistricting. 2021 redistricting was an entirely sham process just for show. It appears very clear that the 2023 legislature is poised to blow off that command again this session. Please remember that when making your upcoming rulings. Justice Alito, perhaps most state legislatures are entitled to a presumption of good faith regarding election legislation, but the Texas legislature has a decades long history of repeated racially discriminatory redistricting. The 2021 redistricting is the most recent example. The Texas legislature is entitled to no presumption of good faith. SB 375 proposes that the 2021 Senate racially discriminatory map be readopted and that bill therefore should be rejected. Rarely in life does one get an opportunity for a "do over." You have that opportunity now. Seize it. Scrap the current Senate and Congressional maps. Do what Judge Rodriguez told you to do—use "a fair and open redistricting process"—not a "just for show" sham process as you have done-- to redraw the lines for the 2024 through 2030 Senate and Congressional elections. When doing so, make sure that the resulting districts reflect Texas's actual demographics so that all Texans have fair representation. Stop stealing the representation of minority Texans.

