From: applications.administrator@capitol.local

To: <u>Senate Redistricting</u>

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:51:34 AM

Date: 2023-03-24 First Name: Victor Last Name: To Title: N/A Organization: self

City: Pflugerville State: Texas

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment today on the issue of gerrymandering in the State of Texas. Gerrymandering is the manipulation of electoral district boundaries for political gain. It undermines the principles of fair representation and equal voting power, and it undermines democracy. In Texas, gerrymandering has been used to entrench the power of the Republican Party, diluting the voting power of Democratic voters and minority communities. While this may be politically beneficial, I ask the committee to consider the effects on our representative form of government as a whole. Our country was founded on the principle that all man(kind) are created equal, and that we shall choose those who we feel best represent us to make the decisions that affect all of us regardless of who we voted for. Gerrymandering makes it so that politicians choose the voters rather than the voters choosing them. I strongly urge the committee to take action to end gerrymandering in Texas. One solution is to establish an independent redistricting commission, made up of impartial experts, to draw district lines in a fair and impartial manner. This would remove the political influence from the redistricting process and ensure that all voters have an equal say in the election of their representatives. Additionally, I believe that Texas should adopt such policies such as the "ranked choice voting" that would ensure that the electoral outcomes more closely align with the preferences of the voters. This would help to reduce the polarization of the political system and save us from political extremists that have sprout up in recent years as a result of our "first past the post" system. Voters should not have to choose between two unpopular candidates that do not represent the views of the population, and a system where a voter has to "settle" for a candidate rather than actually vote for someone they support is not democratic nor healthy to democracy. It undermines the principle of fair representation and equal voting power. I urge the committee to take action to end gerrymandering in the State of Texas by supporting policies and solutions that would make our body of government more representative of those who live here. It may not be the most politically beneficial moves for your party, but I ask you all to consider the government you leave behind for posterity. How can we ensure the continued health and strength of our bold American Experiment? Thank you for your time.