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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:  
Daniel Keeling  
[REDACTED]  
Dallas, Texas  
[REDACTED]

July 25, 2025

Texas Senate  
Texas Legislative Body/Committee  
Texas Capitol  
Austin, Texas

Dear Texas Redistricting Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to the proposed remapping of congressional districts in Texas during the ongoing special legislative session. This issue is not merely a matter of geographic lines; it is a profound question of representation, equity, and justice for all Texans, particularly for our rural communities and minorities.

As a resident of Dallas with deep rural roots in Central Texas I understand firsthand the value of cohesive representation that reflects our unique agricultural interests and community needs. Merging their rural areas with urban neighborhoods threatens to dilute their voices in state and federal governance, undermining the quality of representation we deserve. They are not a faceless statistic; their communities are built on shared values, struggles, and aspirations that can easily be overlooked in a one-size-fits-all approach to districting.

Historically, the interests of rural populations in Texas have often been marginalized. The recent population shifts and the necessity for contiguous districts have resulted in maps that create bizarrely shaped voting blocks, often ignoring the very economic and geographic realities that define their communities. As Texas Tech University Political Science Professor Mark McKenzie aptly stated, the current mapping process allows for communities with vastly different interests to be lumped together, effectively silencing the voices of those who need representation the most.

The removal of protections for voters of color in 2013 has further exacerbated this issue, allowing for the potential disenfranchisement of minority communities in Texas. In the past, laws such as the one that prohibited Black Texans from participating in Democratic primaries demonstrated how systemic barriers can be erected to suppress the voices of marginalized groups. The Supreme Court rulings in *Nixon v. Herndon* (1927) and *Nixon v. Condon* (1932) marked significant victories against such discrimination, but we must remain vigilant against any attempts to undermine these hard-won rights.

Recent data shows that rural counties, are experiencing population declines, while urban areas continue to grow. This demographic shift should not come at the expense of their representation. Instead, we should prioritize keeping rural communities whole, allowing them to advocate effectively for our collective interests. The consequences of ignoring these needs can lead to policies that neglect our agricultural economy, educational resources, and essential services.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the lasting impact of your decisions during this remapping process. Let us work together to create a fair and just congressional map that acknowledges the unique characteristics of our rural communities and protects the rights of all Texans, particularly those from historically disenfranchised backgrounds. Your leadership in this matter can help ensure that our voices are heard, our interests are represented, and our communities are served.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response and hope for a thoughtful approach to districting that honors the diversity and needs of all Texans.

Sincerely,

Daniel Keeling



Chief Blogger, Texas Black Politics

