

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Senate Redistricting Ctte Hearing Libby Willis 2 4 2021.pdf

Date: 2021-02-04

First Name: Libby

Last Name: Willis

Title: Mrs.

Organization: Self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Please see the attached comments. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Testimony of Libby Willis for the February 4, 2021 Senate Redistricting Hearing for North Texas

Good morning, Madame Chairman. My name is Libby Willis and I am here today representing myself. I live in Riverside in Fort Worth in Senate District 10, Congressional District 12, and Texas House District 93, one of the most gerrymandered house districts in our state.

I represent the Democrats of Senate District 10 as the Committeewoman to the State Democratic Executive Committee. As a former candidate for Texas Senate District 10 and now as the Committeewoman, I can tell you that Fort Worth and Tarrant County benefit greatly from having Senate District 10 contained wholly within Tarrant County.

It is my hope that new maps which come out of redistricting will continue this practice of including all of Senate District 10 within Tarrant County as that is a benefit for all our citizens. There is no question that Senator Beverly Powell's representation of SD 10 and her strong advocacy for our cities, county, and our public schools has been an amazing asset for those of us in her district.

I have long experience in helping revitalize neighborhoods of Fort Worth and long experience advocating for our wonderful public schools in Riverside and all of Fort Worth.

It is my experience that we benefit from legislative districts which are composed of compact districts and communities of interest focusing on neighborhoods and areas which have common issues and opportunities. We need these kinds of legislative districts at every level of representation because they sustain great neighborhoods, provide for wonderful schools for our students and ensure economic development that adds value to both.

My major point to you is that I hope you will work diligently to produce fair maps to ensure that compact legislative districts are maintained in all of Tarrant County and that Senate District 10 will remain completely within Tarrant County.

I also want to stress the need for much more lead time for hearings such as these. These "snap hearings" do not encourage the participation of citizens in this, OUR process for redistricting. Participation is the life blood of democracy, something

we always need to ensure is available to all citizens of our great state. Thank you very much.