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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-12
First Name: Sophie
Last Name: Dulberg
Title: N/A
Organization: self
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hi. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I was unable to stay on the call to give public comment because I could not take the whole day off. I hope there will be other opportunities to give testimony, acknowledging that only one hearing isn't accessible to most people.

My name is Sophie Dulberg and I live in the Fifth Ward in Houston, TX in Harris County, state house district 142, state senate district 13, and US house district 18. The neighborhood I live in is historically majority African American although recently it has seen an increase in the Latino population. The demographics of the neighborhood are changing in other ways, too. The income is rising and property values are increasing.

Legacy residents face decades of environmental injustice and increasing displacement as a result of the government's neglect paired with speculation. We need investments in the neighborhood that allow people to live and thrive here, to be healthy and to make enough money to have housing security and afford to stay here if they choose.

I am asking for the following as a bare minimum that the state of Texas should grant its residents:

1. This Committee must follow the law, and especially uphold the Voting Rights Act. None of my testimony today should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes.
2. The public should have an opportunity to see and comment on all maps that are passed out of committee. The public should have at least 14 days to review maps before all public hearings.
3. We still don't know the results of the census. The public should have an opportunity to give input after the census data has been delivered to the state.
4. The public has a right to be part of the legislative process. All meetings, hearings, and testimony should be conducted virtually to protect everyone's health. They should also be broadcast on news channels, facebook live, and other forms of media and social media.

5. The process should be transparent. All communication regarding the maps should be made available to the public for independent review, including emails, texts, and draft maps. No back room decisions!

6. The state should provide an analysis on the effects of the new maps to communities of color.

7. The redistricting maps should not be designed by people who have an inherent interest in their outcomes. Politicians should not draw the maps that elect them into office. Our maps should be drawn by an independent commission.

I would also echo Senator Miles and Senator Whitmire's concerns, especially regarding representation of incarcerated people. They should be represented by and counted in districts where they will return home to and live in community, not where they are incarcerated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

[REDACTED]