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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-05-01

First Name: David

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Title: N/A

Organization: self

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State: Texas

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Honorable Members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting,

The power of redistricting should be vested in the people by creating an independent citizens commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups. Furthermore, decision-makers should be free of conflicts of interest.

Please support:

- Passing proposed plans by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote.
- Using clear criteria for establishing districts—not only abiding by the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, but also recognizing communities of interest and the political boundaries of cities and counties.
- Extending outreach to communities and public access to redistricting tools, proposed plans and data used to allow meaningful participation.
- Increasing transparency by implementing full public disclosure throughout the redistricting process with meetings that are subject to open meeting laws.
- Creating a specific, public timeline for the steps leading to a redistricting plan.
- Creating plans that demonstrate due consideration of public input, which is to be collected at public hearings.
- A full and accurate census count of everyone living in the U.S., regardless of age, citizenship, immigration status, and ability or eligibility to vote.
- The removal of barriers to full participation in the census, including questions based on country of origin.
- The creation of a Complete Count Commission that would be tasked with developing strategies to ensure full participation in the census.
- Strengthening cyber-security and data collection for the census.
- Counting incarcerated or detained persons in their place of residence or their family's residence, rather than at their place of incarceration, for purposes of reapportionment and redistricting.

Please consider the following results of a recent survey on partisan gerrymandering:

- An overwhelming majority (71 percent) of Americans want the Supreme Court to place limits on lawmakers' ability to manipulate voting maps. This includes 80 percent of Democrats, 68 percent of Independents and 65 percent of Republicans.
- 62 percent of voters are less likely to support a candidate who supports partisan gerrymandering.
- 73 percent of voters support removing partisan bias from redistricting, even if it means their preferred political party will win fewer seats.

Please create an independent citizens commission on redistricting of, by, and for the people!

Respectfully,
David King

