

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:13:21 PM
Attachments: [2021-09-30_Spraitzar_Written_Testimony.docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Daphne
Last Name: Spraitzar
Title: Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: New Braunfels
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Daphne Spraitzar; I live in New Braunfels, TX. I am speaking for myself as an individual and do not represent any organization. I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to address you concerning the recently released proposed Congressional Districts voting maps released just 3 days ago.

I believe all Texans deserve the right to equal representation and the guaranteed freedom to choose their own elected officials. The congressional map proposed by the Committee (Plan C2101) does even less than the 2010 map to ensure equal representation and in fact does the opposite.

Among other things, Plan C2101 eliminates all competitive seats, ignores the growth and influence of communities of color, and gerrymanders the map to retain and increase partisan power.

- The 2020 Census data that shows 95 percent of Texas' population growth came from people of color and was centered in urban and suburban communities. Plan C2101 actually increases the number of majority-white districts.

- The votes from the cities and suburbs of and around El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth are drastically diluted.

That last point affects me, my community, and my town directly. We happen to be located between San Antonio and Austin.

Plan C2101 uses us as pawns to dilute the voting power of communities of color in those two cities.

The 2010 map divided New Braunfels' voters into 3 congressional districts. Plan C2101 divides New Braunfels into 4

congressional districts! But, New Braunfels is one community. We deserve one congressional representative who knows and represents all of us and all of our community's challenges and opportunities.

I ask that you immediately withdraw the proposed Plan C2101 that is heavily gerrymandered and go back to the drawing board, but this time using a fair, open, and transparent process.

Specifically, I ask that you implement the following common sense measures to ensure a more fair, open, and transparent redistricting process.

- I ask that you first follow the law – the Voting Rights Act (VRA) – and give groups representing communities of color a voice in the process.
- I ask that you exclude partisan data when drawing VRA compliant districts.
- I ask that all documents, written communications, emails, text messages, and drafts of maps pertaining to redistricting not be destroyed by the committees or their employees, staff, or contractors.
- I ask that the committee to publish a report on how the maps were drawn, and whether and why there was any deviation from traditional redistricting principles, including county and precinct splits and population deviations.

I have reviewed the alternate maps submitted by the public and support Plan C2102, submitted by Jeff Harper -- it keeps New Braunfels whole and overall looks sensible.

I regard all partisan gerrymandering whether foisted on citizens by Democrats or Republicans to constitute a critical threat to American democracy. Rise above the fray; Texans are known for common sense and we used to be known for being friendly and giving people a fair shake. We can be that again. You are our leaders; lead.

Again, I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to address the Committee.

[REDACTED]

Written Testimony before the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting September 30, 2021

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