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**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:20:21 PM

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Date: 2021-09-30  
First Name: Emily  
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State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting,

My name is Emily Gould, and I want to thank you for taking my testimony.

The congressional map proposed by the Texas State Senate is unfair, unlawful and gerrymandered. I urge you to support redistricting reform. Specifically, I urge you to support an independent commission to draw district lines through a process that uses objective criteria. Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in so doing, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly. I urge you to support redistricting reform.

Tejano, Afro-American and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) population growth in Texas as confirmed by the 2020 census is the reason Texas is gaining two new congressional seats.

The proposed map fails to create even one competitive seat across 38 districts. Further, votes from cities and suburbs around El Paso, San Antonio, Austin and Houston have been drastically diluted, with the worst packing of Tejano and Afro-American votes in three Dallas-Fort Worth congressional districts and the cracking of AAPI votes across four. This ensures the populations responsible for Texas gaining two new congressional seats do not have an opportunity to compete for new representation at the federal level.

Therefore, I request that the map be redrawn to create a competitive TX-37 congressional seat within Dallas County in north Texas to honor the considerable population growth in this area.

Respectfully,

Emily Gould

[REDACTED]