

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:50:35 AM

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. I oppose SB6, Plan 2101.

I am a retired CPA, seminarian, and aspirant to the UU ministry. My faith calls me to work for justice and for the democratic process. The proposed maps in Plan 2101 are both unjust and undemocratic.

I won't belabor the important testimony provided by representatives of the Brennan Center, LULAC, Texas NAACP, and the Harris County Senatorial delegation this morning. This testimony provides ample information about the racist impact of the maps. I am very familiar with the DFW area and Harris and Fort Bend counties, and I agree with this testimony as it relates to these areas.

Personally, I live in Farmers Branch, which gets split up between CD24 and CD33 in a bizarre fashion - my own neighborhood gets split in half, with my home in CD24, areas to my west shoehorned into CD33 while areas just a few blocks further west in CD24. This pattern of cutting up neighborhoods is replicated all over DFW and other areas of the state. It makes no sense, except that, as I learned this morning, the maps were submitted by an attorney retained by Republican members of Congress.

This is not an appropriate way to create maps or do public policy. It is crony-ism and good ole boy club; no amount of "providing input" or "submitting alternative maps" can fix a process so corrupted from the start.

During the committee meeting, several times chair Huffman indicated that the maps are race-blind. Given the racial history of the United States where people of color, especially Black people, have had their movements controlled by redlining, lynching, broken windows/war on drugs policing and other methods, "race-blind" methods simply continue to perpetuate the status quo and legacy of White supremacy. The documentaries Race: the Power of Illusion, 13th, and Henry Louis Gates' Reconstruction documentary series outline this history. We should, morally and legally, examine the impact of our actions.

As a racialized White person, I say it is far past time to redress past racial injustices and to stop continuing to perpetuate them. I ask that the committee reject these maps and to instead draw maps that are fair, competitive, redress past racial inequities, redress past splitting of

population centers in urban population centers, and that represent ALL Texans. They should redraw fair maps and then have a series of regional hearings, virtual and in-person, to get public comment.

This process just demonstrates that Texas should have an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission.

