

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2020-12-15
First Name: Gavin
Last Name: Mason
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Here is the testimony I gave to the Statewide Virtual Public Input Hearing on Redistricting, hosted by Fair Maps Texas /LWV on 8 December 2020. I wish to submit this to the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting.

"Well, hi there. My name is Gavin Mason. I'm in Houston and I'm representing myself and not any organization. And I sort of happened upon this meeting. So, I don't have a prepared, detailed case to put, but from listening to Michael and reading some materials around this issue, and particularly listening to Michael saying that this issue is rising in people's minds and people's desire to be an active part of their politics and the decision making in their communities. I work in the oil and gas business, and I work with a lot of people that are from minorities and there's a frustration that they don't seem to have a say in power. I think Michael maybe used the word to not maybe shame, but to embarrass politicians, which is a tall order, to put things into the sunlight, I think is going to be expected. And, that means we basically need a large amount of independence in who decides voting districts:

that's clear criteria on how any proposed boundaries were chosen, with data, not just nice maps that don't really show mountains or other barrier, but show data on the makeup of the communities, the demographics, et cetera, and to emphasize why the proposers believe those maps are fair.

And that should go to public consultation when all these data analysts, some of which I know, from whatever color of politics, can look at them and expose anything blatant and hopefully cause changes, hopefully not as far as the courts, but just from publicity in the press, et cetera, so that the final maps would be clear; ideally an independent commission, but I'm not sure that's going to happen. But I think timing is coming, we talk about you know Texas going blue and the incumbent reds, and I'm an independent, I know I can back that up, but if Republicans are worried about losing power, if it went blue, then it would seem in their interests to come up with fair election boundaries, so if it does go blue, the elections are based on true representation of the people of Texas. And that gives, I think, a lot of this young wave that is coming up, a sense of empowerment. And as a Texan, not born here, but I think that sense of empowerment motivates people and energizes our state to become better; to increase ourselves economically and as a vibrant state in all aspects. And so, that's my case. Michael talked about this being a long-term thing. I think the timing means that those in power should look at making this switch earlier for their own advantage, but in the next 10 years or much sooner. So that's my case. Thank you very much. And thank you to the League of Women Voters and to those that organized this session. Thank you very much."

Gavin Mason

Engineer / operations auditor
submitted on behalf of myself and fellow commonsense Texans
15 December 2020

