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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
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To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Aslan Hollier Senate Testimony on Redistricting in TX.pdf

Date: 2021-02-26
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

Senate Testimony on Redistricting in TX

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Aslan Hollier and I'm representing myself.

I'm a lifelong citizen of Texas, and a current constituent of U.S. District 10, in Austin. In 2018 the Houston Chronicle ranked us the 13th most gerrymandered district.

Major cities are blue, but each is split several squiggly ways. My district has over 150 miles of coverage, but less than 50 miles of that is Austin, which is different than Brenham, Columbus, or Hempstead. There's no way to keep constituents happy. Travis county should be one district, not four, and the Texas Constitution should specify a population for each.

Texas violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act every decade since it was enacted, and since Republicans took total control in 2003, everything has been oddly working in their favor, but yet SCOTUS says federal courts won't consider partisan gerrymandering claims.

Phil King said in 2006, "Our purpose was purely political. We wanted to elect more Republicans to Congress."

"Packing" districts minimizes minority influence, and voices. Majority-minority districts present an unfair partisan advantage, which unconstitutionally dilutes voting rights. Incumbents have less competition, and legislators who lack rivalry, have less incentive to adhere to constituents. There's a clear representation of suppression when citizens lose incentive to speak up.

When Kirk Watson was a senator, he couldn't see the maps. We have a chair member with a history of racial issues overseeing redistricting. So, why should we trust this process?

It's a spectacle of election suppression, rather than integrity. After obtaining census results, I expect you to come back to **us** with maps. We want enhanced transparency and accountability. Be fair. Do not manipulate maps in support of one party, don't discriminate, and no more squiggles!

Thank you, Chairman and Committee for giving me my time