

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-11
First Name: Alexander
Last Name: Andersen
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Greetings Committee, my name is Alexander Andersen, and I am begging you to reconsider the current congressional district lines of Austin.

I would like to start by saying that the most important thing for this Committee to do is to respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act. None of my testimony today should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice (or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes.)

I am unable to attend the hearing due to this meeting being held during work and business hours, and this timing is not accessible to working class people.

I am a transgender man and I live in the 78704 zip code, off of South 1st Street, in Congressional District 21. My neighbors across the street from me are in an entirely

different district, District 35, despite the fact that we live in the same neighborhood, the kids go to the same schools, we go to the same doctors, and we share the exact same needs.

Texas is one of the most deadly states for transgender people, and having the city of Austin split up into 5 districts is not only wrong, but this blatant gerrymandering makes it even more difficult for my Transgender community to get the resources and representation that we desperately need.

Austin's LGBTQIA+ community resides all over the City of Austin and within Travis county, and must be kept together.

In order to uphold the Voting Rights Act, you should prioritize keeping minority groups together.

All persons need to have their vote and voice heard equally, that is the law.

Our community experiences oppression daily, and having to work with 5 different representatives to get just 1 group's needs met is nearly impossible.

Texas Law states that State House Districts must follow the County Line Rule, and must use whole counties to the extent possible.

Travis county needs to be represented by 1 congressional district, not split up amongst 5.

To fix this, institute a non-partisan redistricting commission used by other states.

We insist that a public hearing be held before any map (bill) is passed out of committee after the actual maps for the bill is drawn and insist that proposed maps be put on display for the public to view during those hearings.

(During the recent hearing to review evidence for the bail-in provision of Section 3 of the Voting Rights Act, U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez criticized the 2011

redistricting effort for not having
"maps visible for the public" to
view)

Thank y'all for your time and for
holding this public hearing. Do the
legal, right, and honorable thing,
and please correct this great
injustice that has harmed and held
back Texas voters for years. It is
not too late to be on the right side
of history. Thank you.

