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**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Sunday, October 3, 2021 10:39:36 PM

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Date: 2021-10-04  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:  
Senate and House Redistricting Committees Testimony 10-03-21  
Eric Vormelker

I am writing today with a weight on my mind and soul.

I read that state Republicans hired the person that gerrymandered Wisconsin to do the same to Texas. And I find myself hoping that you will consider the consequences.

Not just to yourselves, your positions of power, and the power of the Republican Party here in Texas and at the Federal level.

What are the consequences to this country?

We have already seen the consequences of the gerrymandering of 10 years ago: the January 6 insurrection and assault on the US Capitol; hundreds of thousands more COVID deaths than we should have had; chaos in school districts all over the country as they try, in vain, to protect their students; and Congressional Republicans refusing to do anything about actually governing.

I am, at times, frightened to my core at what is happening. And it's not just me. Former Republicans are sounding the alarm about how dangerous things have become. Republicans around the country have been kicked out of office for recognizing Biden's win, most critically, the ones who count the votes, like Secretaries of State.

What does this have to do with redistricting, and in particular the maps you've put forward?

EVERYTHING.

Carving up the districts the way you have, with nearly every incumbent not needing to campaign turns every district into a primary race, where only the most extreme win. Ridding yourselves of one extremist while opening the door to dozens of others is just plain dangerous, threatening the future of the nation.

I was afraid you'd do exactly what you've done for me with your Congressional map – packed me into a Democratic bubble.

While I'm thrilled to no longer be represented by a rich, out of touch, Republican that has made it progressively harder and harder for his constituents to speak to his staff let alone him, I am also deeply aware that the resulting map spits in the eye of the majority of non-white citizens in Texas.

All four maps are equally bad, equally racist, and equally offensive.

Asking us to comment on the amendments being put forward is equally awful.

The vast majority of the citizens that this steals representation from don't have the time to come testify during the week. We have jobs, we have families, we have responsibilities.

So, what do I want?

I want what I and many organizations have desired for years – a non-partisan redistricting commission.

You CLEARLY can't be trusted to do this yourselves, since all you do, DECADE AFTER DECADE, despite courts making you go back and do it again, is slice up the poor and minorities to continue your white supremacist power. Power that crushes people. Power that abuses them. Power that kills them.

But what do I want now?

I want you to toss out all of these garbage maps and start again. There's actually time. There are scores of universities and organizations that have developed automated tools that can, within minutes, generate hundreds of fair maps, one of them being UT Austin. Why are you paying some yankee consultant when you can keep your money here at home and get maps that will actually save the state money – money that comes out of Texans' pockets – from lawsuits.

You've gotten yourselves in a bind here with Trumpists.

But you can get yourselves out of it. Step back from the edge.

Make many more seats more competitive. You'll still be able to win them, but won't need to kowtow to violent extremists bent on fascism.

