

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:36:57 PM

Date: 2021-09-30

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Koch

Title: N/A

Organization: Te

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Houston

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Mary Koch and, although I am a member of various groups interested in redistricting, I represent myself in this testimony. Currently I am in Congressional District 2 for whom Dan Crenshaw is the Representative. It appears that I am now included in the proposed District 18.

Point one of my comments: The maps were just released a few days ago. I have found no tools to indicate for sure what district I am in even though I have looked at several maps. The time between the release of the maps and the deadline for comment is too short. It appears that there is not true interest in informing the public clearly about these maps, their impact and/or in hearing public comment. The time to comment should be longer because this is a 10-year decision. The maps should be more easily navigated so that the public can easily identify streets, addresses etc. and the official proposed maps posted in a clearly identified place, dated and signed by the Committee, For citizens such as myself who are not intimately involved with the Committee in Austin, accurate information is very difficult to determine.

Point two: Because I think I am the proposed District 18, my comments will be based on that assumption. This proposed District has no concern for representing a community of interest. My home is located in what appears to be an afterthought--a narrow slice of geography, looking like an appendix, going south near Main Street in Houston with the rest of the District extending east, north and then northwest. I have no community contacts within this area. We have no churches, schools, super neighborhoods, shopping areas, transportation issues, etc. in common. I am clearly without a community of interest. I live near Braeswood Bayou and flooded for the first time in 2017 as a result of Harvey. The most of the District to which I am assigned is not in the same flood plain and this is a major issue for us. In closing, I feel the map is designed to shut me and my community out or at least to ignore us.

I hoped the new maps would be better than the current gerrymanded districts but it appears not to be the case. I object to the maps as proposed. Communities of interest, regardless of political parties and/or ethnicities, are clearly not a driving force in these proposed maps. Communities are driven mostly by geography--neighborhoods, schools, streets and roads of common interest. Proximity allows communities to organize, discuss and identify solutions to common problems. In the case of my location in the proposed District 18, I have no community of interest within the District.

Please do better.
Mary Koch

